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THE ADVENTURES OF A BANK-NOTE.

VOL. III.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

ADVENTURES

OF A

BANK-NOTE.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

——*Explebo numerum, reddarque tenebris.*

VIRG. ÆN.

When I've held up a proper number
Of fools and knaves, and ſuch-like lumber,
To public view, and public ſcorn,
Contented I'll to duſt return.

LONDON,
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Covent-garden. 1771.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE ADVENTURES OF A BANK-NOTE.

CHAP. I.

A ſhort diſſertation on light reading.

BEFORE I finiſhed my ſecond volume, I brought the poor curate fairly out of his troubles, and defy any of my readers to ſay I left the parſon in the ſuds; on the contrary, I left him happy with his twenty pounds in his pocket to pay his whole debts with, which amounted to little more than half his capital.—

How happy would three fourths of the readers in coaches, chariots, vis-a-vees, whiſkeys, curricles, &c. &c. &c. &c. be, if they could ſay half as much; but as that is not to be expected, we will e'en leave them to ride further and further into debt, till they whirl to the gates of a palace called the King's-Bench, or ſome other of his majeſty's buildings, fitted up with needleſs iron bars to keep people in, that can't keep themſelves out.

In the firſt part of my firſt and ſecond volumes I proceeded to tell you, in a regular manner, how I walked out of one perſon's pocket into another; and deſigned to have done ſo to the end of about twenty volumes, which is as much as I expect

pect to fill; but ſince my jumb- with the printer and his devil obliged me to pop in my ſtories juſt as I could recollect them, you muſt not expect any more regularity from me: ſuch a head as mine once put wrong, is not eaſily put to rights again; if therefore I tell you into whoſe hands I fell, that is all you muſt now look for; but which way, or how, or when, or why, or wherefore, if you expect any account, ten to one you will be diſappointed.

I fell by good luck into the hands of a gentleman of fortune and family, with whoſe company I was ſo much pleaſed, that I wiſhed to ſpend all the days of my ſlender life with him; but as the good old women ſay, if wiſhes were horſes, who would

walk afoot? Would you, Mr. Circulator of greaſy volumes? To you I addreſs myſelf, becauſe I know you will do me the honour to read the firſt half dozen pages, to enable you to give your opinion to your good cuſtomers, the youg ladies, and milleners apprentices, whether my book is likely to prove fine light tragical reading, or one of your heavy merry books? I mention your own words in this deſcription of books, becauſe I heard you give the beſt reaſons for your expreſſions that ever man did; and I honour both your full powdered white wig and yourſelf for it. "Sir," ſays you to a gentleman, in whoſe pocket I lay, and who ſeemed to ſtare at the novelty of your ideas, "I call your very tragical "books the lighteſt reading, becauſe "they

" they move the nimbleſt from my " ſhelves. A crying volume, Sir," adds you, with an air that would do honour to the librarian of the Spaniſh monarch, " brings me more money in " ſix months than a heavy merry thing " will do in ſix years: have I not rea- " ſon, Sir," quoth you, " for what I " advance?" " Indeed," ſays the gentleman in whoſe pocket I lay, making a profound obeiſance either to your wig, perſon, or underſtanding, but which I declare I never yet could learn; " I muſt own you are perfectly " right." Upon this you returned the gentleman's compliment with ſo ſmirking a ſide-bow, that had your hands been ſtuck in a muff, I ſhould have miſtaken you for the inimitable Mr. Nailem himſelf; but as I have loſt more time already in talking

with, and about you, than our readers will thank us for, I ſhall e'en proceed to my buſineſs without waiting for an anſwer; whether you would not rather chuſe to ride than walk on foot?

Mr. Villiers, for that is the name of the gentleman into whoſe hands I mentioned I luckily fell, was no drinker of a bottle after dinner, a glaſs or two ſufficed his occaſions; he therefore ſeldom failed to be at one coffee-houſe or other nigh the play-houſes by five o'clock, to ſpend an hour before the play began; by which means I had an opportunity of hearing a curious dialogue, now and then, from people in the next box, or the next but one or two, or even at the other end of the room; for

for my organs of hearing are excellent. One evening when Mr. Villiers was buſy in peruſing a paper of punch — Now did I foreſee I ſhould be interrupted by that there fellow with the flat noſe, who is ſnuffling out, "What the devil is a paper of "punch?" Why, you Dutch maſtiff-faced hobgobblin, if your brains had not been as much compreſſed againſt the back part of your ſkull, as your noſe is againſt the fore part, you would ſoon have conceived that a paper of punch is a paper of contradictions, which all our news-papers are: do not all the nations in the world, the Hottentots not excepted, call a bowl of punch a bowl of Engliſh contradictions? and if bitter, and ſweet, and ſour, and ſtrong, and ſmall, mixt all together are not contradic-

tions, then your noſe is no contradiction to Hogarth's line of beauty; ſo pray keep your ignorance to yourſelf, and do not interrupt me and my ſenſible readers any more.

CHAP. II.

The great advantage of a Juſtice of Peace knowing the world before he ſtudies Burn.

I Wiſh that fellow with the flat noſe had minded his own buſineſs, and been poiſoning all the neighbours by vending ſtinking tallow, inſtead of interrupting me: he has broke the thread of my diſcourſe; and as I never learnt to make a true weaver's knot, I ſhall hardly be able to

to tye it neatly together again: but I will do my beſt; and the Engliſh are naturally ſuch good-natured ſouls, that when they ſee a man doing his utmoſt to pleaſe, they always take the will for the deed; therefore the moment I can recollect where that otter-faced fellow put me out, I will go on.

I have it now—the landlady is bawling out, "Carry that twelve penny-"worth of punch to Doctor Plump-"cheeks." The word punch has made me recollect I left off at a paper of punch. But before I proceed, I cannot for the ſoul of me help aſking, why you never ſee a parſon call for leſs than twelve-penny worth, when few laymen exceed ſix-penny worth, though perhaps they may repeat it oftener? But not to treſpaſs on your

patience, gentle reader, I will proceed in my tale, and call to-morrow for an anſwer to my queſtion.

As Mr. Villiers was reading this paper of punch, written or printed by a Mr. Say, who, on one ſide of the leaf tells you that the Ruſſians had killed fifty thouſand Turks; and on the other ſide the leaf ſays, that the plague had deſtroyed this fifty thouſand Turks three days before the battle. Whilſt Mr. Villiers, I ſay, was peruſing this curious paper, I was liſtening to as curious a dialogue in the next box, between a Jamaica planter, and a young lieutenant of the navy, who I found was his relation——"Jack," ſays the planter, "have you ſeen my couſin, your "grand-father, ſince you came "home?" Yes," ſays Jack, "I left

" him but yeſterday." " Did he re-
" ceive you as uſual," ſays his friend.
" Better than uſual," replies this Jack Pickle; " I have the witneſſes
" in my pocket," ſaying this, he pulled out a handful of guineas;
" Hey day! from whence came
" theſe ſinging birds, Jack?" ſays the kinſman. " I will tell you," returns Jack. " You ſhall have the
" whole voyage from my outſet to
" mooring in this birth. I went
" paſſenger in the Biggleſwade cat,
" and took ſhipping at the Croſs-
" Keys, in Gracechurch-Street; we
" run down before the wind at about
" five knots an hour; and were
" twice very near being overſet,
" though the gale was moderate, but
" then the bulk of our loading was
" above deck: however, we arrived
" at laſt ſafe at Biggleſwade; I and

" an-

" another only put aſhore there, the
" reſt proceeded on their voyage to
" York. I ſoon reached my grand-
" father's cabbin, who was ſpecial
" glad to ſee me, and ſoon ſtowed
" my after-hold full of roaſt beef.
" We then had a good deal of jaw
" together; and he told me a long
" rigmaroll of things that happened
" the year after the queen of Sheba
" took a trip to viſit king Solomon.
" I ſoon found the old gentleman
" was beſt pleaſed when I laughed
" heartily, ſo I had nought to do
" but let him go on, and I kept
" laughing, without minding a ſin-
" gle word he ſaid. At laſt ſome-
" thing put it into his head to ſpeak
" about my father's ſudden death,
" which ſet the old man a-crying.
" I not knowing but he was going on
" with his bag of tales, kept laughing

" on

" on ſtill: " What, ſirrah, (ſays the
" old gentleman) are you ſuch a pro-
" fligate as to laugh at your father's
" death?" Death! (ſays I, rather ſur-
" priſed to find myſelf running bump
" upon a lee-ſhore, and how to tack
" about ſuddenly was the difficulty;)
" death! grandfather? (ſays I) " Yes,
" ſirrah, (ſays he) I was lamenting
" your father's death, and you fell
" a-laughing." By this time I had fill-
" ed the foreſail, and calling to my-
" ſelf, Helm a lee, got upon the other
" tack in the twinkling of a marling-
" ſpike. Lord, grandfather (ſays I)
" I was ſo buſy in thinking of that
" laſt merry ſtory, that I could not
" help laughing over again, ſo loſt
" what you ſaid about my poor fa-
" ther. This ſet all to rights, and
" we ſoon got under way again.

" The

"The day that I came away after
"we had dined, and the old gentle-
"man had gotten his pipe ſtuck into
"his jaws, and was beginning ſome
"of his old ſtories, part of which he
"made, and dreamt the reſt: I hap-
"pened to ſay, Lord, grandfather,
"you muſt have read a great deal,
"and ſtudied very hard to know all
"you do."

CHAP. III.

The Juſtice continued.

"GRandſon, (ſays the juſtice) I
"ſtudy nothing but the law
"now: in my youth, when I had
"little notion of being ſo uſeful to
"my country as I am at preſent,
"I was

"I was a great reader of ſtory-
"books, and knew a merry book
"as well as any body. Our parſon,
"who I never thought a great ſcho-
"lar, uſed to commend a merry
"book he called John Quickſets and
"Sanchleys Pancakes, and would have
"lent me the books, but as every
"pariſh has ſome clever fellow at
"quickſets, and ſome good houſewife
"to fry pancakes, I did not think
"it worth while to borrow his book.
"The parſon in the main is an honeſt
"ſoul; in every thing but books
"we agree very well, for I never
"knew him flinch from a bottle or
"pipe. Now the books I uſed to
"read I remember had ſome life
"and ſoul in them; there was Ro-
"binſon Cruſoe and his Man Fri-
"day, two fine fellows; then there

was

" was the hiſtory of Captain What-
" d'y-call-um, that was ſhipwrecked
" upon an uninhabited iſland in the
" deſerts of Arabia; then there is
" the hiſtory of the Pirates in the
" Weſtern Indies—what a glorious
" fellow that Captain Blackbeard
" was! he ſhot two mutineers with
" his own hands for refuſing to eat
" ſalt with their dumplings. I did
" not read that part myſelf, but I
" heard my landlady at the Shoul-
" der of Mutton ſay it is ſo in her
" book." Bleſs me, grandfather,
" ſays I, what with converſation,
" and what with reading, what a
" fund or knowledge you have laid
" in! " Knowledge, my boy! aye,
" aye, not only of land matters, but
" of ſhip matters too. I have ſtole
" ſo much knowledge by talking

" with

" with my brother, the admiral, that
" I think I could carry a ſhip thro'
" the Baltick into the Mediterranean
" almoſt as ſoon as himſelf." Aye,
" and ſooner too, I'll anſwer for it,
" ſays I, with a little practice. " A
" little practice! boy; aye, and a
" very little practice too, would have
" carried me round the world better
" than admiral Anſon. I would not
" have ſtuck upon the Cape's Horns
" ſo many months, ſtarving and
" freezing, as he did, I'll warrant
" you, boy; though I think people
" made more noiſe about getting
" over them Horns than they need
" have done. "You are right, ſays
I, " but he did it to make folks
" think him a very clever fellow:
" he knew on which ſide his bread
" was buttered. But you ſeem to

" know all the world, grandfather.
" Pray, how could you get ſo much
" knowledge by your own fire-ſide,
" as I may ſay? " Knowledge! my
" boy," ſays the old fellow, his dim
" eyes twinkling with pleaſure all
" the time, " why, I have not told
" you half yet; I know there is a
" great prolific ſea called the At-
" lambſtick, that the Spaniards have
" almoſt all to themſelves: then
" there is the Laplanders, that inha-
" bit the coaſt of Portugal; then
" there is your Greenland whales, and
" white bears, from the empreſs of
" Morocco's dominions; then there
" is Ruſhia leather, and olives, from
" Penſylvania; then there is your
" Turks, and your Tartars, and
" ſugar planters, all along the gold
" coaſt in Canada; then there is your

" ele-

" elephants, and crocodiles, in the
" river Nile in Jamaica: in ſhort,
" boy, a man would hardly be able
" to tell all I know in a week." Nor
" in a month neither, at the rate you
" go on, grandfather, ſays I. I
" expect I ſhall never know ſo much
" as long as I live, if I was to keep
" a reckoning for the whole ſhip's
" company, maſter, and mate, and
" all. " May be not," ſays the juſ-
" tice; " every body was not born
" with ſuch a memory to reſtrain
" things, when they have catched
" them, as me: but have a good
" heart, my boy; a relation of mine
" can never want ſenſe enough to
" get through this world." At
" theſe words he roſe up, and went
" to his deſk, and fell to counting
" his money, to know what he could

" ſpare for his annual preſent. Five
" guineas uſed to be the ſum: but
" the fund of knowledge I had
" found in him, I did not fear would
" help me to ſomething more; nor was
" I diſappointed, for he brought me
" twenty guineas; told me I was a
" fine boy, and as I was partly a man
" now, he did not doubt but I
" knew how to manage my money.
" On this I pocketed the caſh along
" with his bleſſing, and away I
" luffed. I could not help, as I
" plied up to Biggleſwade, to get
" into the track of the York Fly-
" boat, from being pleaſed at leav-
" ing the good old man ſo well con-
" tented with himſelf. Although
" he had turned the world, that
" poor I was to get through, quite
" upſide down; and had ſo jumbled

" the

" the Turks, and Tartars, with the
" ſugar planters, and Greenland
" whales, that it will be a difficult
" matter ſoon to know which is
" which; but as you are my friend,
" I am glad he has landed you all
" ſafe upon the gold coaſt in Cana-
" da. I began to be afraid that in
" complaiſance to the bulk of your
" companions, the whales, he would
" have left you to raiſe ſugars either
" in the North Sea, or the Bay of
" Biſcay; in both which places the
" ſoil would have been too wet for
" you; but on ſecond thoughts I
" found he could not in juſtice land
" you any where but where he did,
" becauſe he directly ſent a troop of
" elephants to Jamaica, to trample
" down your plantations, to which
" he added an army of crocodiles to

" eat up all your negroes: but in
" the main he is a good old ſoul,
" Ned, and, I will anſwer for him,
" did not know he was doing ſo much
" miſchief; therefore I hope you will
" forgive him, and not think the
" worſe of him." " My thoughts of
" him," ſays the kinſman of this Jack Pickle, very gravely, " I ſhall keep
" to myſelf; but I ſhall tell you
" what I think of you, if you de-
" ſire it." " I do deſire it," ſays Pickle. " Then," adds his companion,
" I agree with your grandfather in
" thinking you not only a fine boy,
" but ſo very fine a boy, that you
" would grace a cart up Holborn-
" hill better than any hero that has
" rode that cavalcade theſe twenty
" years." " But not," ſays Pickle, with the greateſt good humour in the

the world, "ſo long as my twenty "guineas laſt, which are all ſafe yet; "and to keep them ſo I ſhall make "you pay for the coffee;" which the planter inſtantly did, and away they both went.

Now, if I had a good hand at thoſe matters, what a curious diſſertation could I write upon the honeſt well-meaning ſimplicity of the juſtice, and the archneſs of this pickled grandſon of his; but, alas, my talent lays another road. I can recount a plain fact, without either adding or diminiſhing, and make a ſhift to underſtand myſelf, though perhaps not many of my readers can; but as to diſſertations, obſervations, allegations, ratiocinations, elucidations, depredations, elevations, atteſtations,

emendations, deliberations, beatifications, purgations, ſanctifications, ejaculations, dulcorations, exemplifications, expectorations, aſſeverations, agitations, examinations, perpetrations, annihilations, determinations, procraſtinations, reſtorations, ſalivations, exculpations, circulations, aggravations, animations, renunciations, anticipations, aſſaſſinations, aſſociations, capitulations, ratifications, calcinations, derivations, participations, and all the congregations of quotations, or even gratifications, &c. &c. &c. too tedious for me to recollect, or my reader to read, I pretend not to meddle with them at all, but leave each article to the perſon beſt qualified to handle it; only recommending to the learned doctor A, the reverend and thrice learned doctor B;

the

the very learned parſon C, and the ſtill more learned Mr. D, &c. &c. to follow my example, and take particular care they don't fall upon the ſubject they are the leaſt qualified to handle.

Very ingenious men have ſplit upon this rock before now; and, by miſtaking their talents, have cut as bad a figure as I ſhould do if I attempted to ſpeak in the houſe of commons; let not then the learned doctors, and eſquires, and maſters, to whom I give theſe hints, take it in dudgeon; I mean them well, and, as a good chriſtian, I ſhould rejoice to ſee their light ſhine before men; but too many of them who have great learning, for want of a little judg-

judgment, keep burning their candle under a buſhel, and all their life-time, for the guts of them, can neither get the candle out of the buſhel, nor the buſhel kick'd off the candle, by which means many a candle; which, if properly placed, might have exhibited a ſtriking light, has burnt waſte for forty years, and then gone out without its neareſt neighbour's knowing it ever exiſted; and this will eternally happen, till our great wiſdom ſhall think proper to follow that unerring rule; ſtudy firſt to know thyſelf, which that you may all do both black coats and brown—from the lawn ſleeves to the tattered caſſock; from the curled magnificent phyſical wig, to the thread-bare poet's curl-leſs brigadier,

gadier, is the hearty prayer of, worthy and thrice learned

Sirs,

Your moſt devoted and

Moſt obedient, and moſt

Humble ſervant, and ſincere

Well-wiſher, &c. &c. &c.

CHAP. IV.

A Taylor's ſoul coſts as much ſaving as a Man's.

THE Jamaica planter and his hopeful kinſman, the lieutenant, had not been gone five minutes before their box was occupied by two well looking gentlemen, to whoſe

whoſe diſcourſe I prick'd up my ears directly; they ſat ſilent till the coffee came, but the moment the fumes of that vivifying liquor reached their noſtrils, one of them began to ſpeak. "I thought," ſays the youngeſt "you "would have been near Uxbridge "before this." "So I ſhould," replies the other, "but my wrong-"headed pious rogue of a taylor "has not got my ſhooting jacket "done; my humanity will not ſuf-"fer me to turn the rogue off, on "account of his family; and yet "theſe pretended holy vermin have "gotten ſuch hold on the fellow's "ſmall ſhare of ſenſes, that I fear "he will be a beggar as long as he "lives. How do you think he has "ſerved me?" "I ſhould be glad "to hear," ſays the friend. "I'll

"tell

"tell you," rejoins the firſt ſpeaker, who was a fine looking fellow, only his eyes were placed ſo far back in his head, that nature fearing they might not keep ſo good a guard on his face as was neceſſary, had furniſhed him with a noſe that jutted out as far as a ſnail's horns, and being as ſenſible to the touch, was of the ſame uſe in giving him notice when he aproached near any danger; I don't inſinuate by this that he had a tender noſe; but in the main, that he looked like a man that it would be very dangerous to take by the noſe.

"I called," ſays the owner of the long noſe, "on this pious devil of "a taylor, the day before yeſterday, "and ordered him to get my coat "done,

" done, and bring it home this morn-
" ing." " Sir," ſays the poor ragged louſe-feeder, " I would not work " to-morrow if you would give me " this world and another ſuch; it " is a ſolemn faſt day." " Upon my " word, ſays I, I am glad to find our " biſhops are ſo alert, and our great " men ſo religiouſly inclined; it is " a very proper ſtep, to be ſure, for " this poor nation is threatened not " only with war, but the plague like-" wiſe, and then famine naturally en-" ſues; therefore on that account I " think a ſolemn faſt very neceſſary." " That account!" ſays this vermin canibal, " our faſt is a faſt of our own " appointing, and on a ten times " more melancholy account than all " the plagues and famines in the " world; what more melancholy ac-

" count,

"count," ſays I, a little alarmed, can poſſibly happen? "Sir," ſays the fellow, (ſtretching his face above a foot and a half long by his own meaſure, which, tho' a ſhort yard, yet half of it long enough for any Chriſtian's face,) "can you, Sir, "live in this country, and not know "that the thirteenth apoſtle, the pi- "ous, the devout, the moſt reve- "rend, and moſt religious Doctor "Squintum is dead, and the bre- "thren have appointed a ſolemn faſt "on the dreadful occaſion? But how "to face the good ſoul that preaches "the funeral ſermon, unleſs I can "muſter a quarter guinea to drop "on the plate, I know not; and I "have but three ſhillings in the "world to purchaſe one with." "Why, ſirrah," ſays I, for here I loſt

all

all patience, "you dolt, you aſs, "you driveller, you wet-nurſe to "miriads of black liſted cattle, is "it not enough that the departed "ſcoundrel robbed you both of your "money and ſenſes whilſt he was "alive, but you muſt let one of his "rogues, at his death, double thoſe "robberies upon you? Is not this "quarter guinea to make up a ſum "to pray for the ſalvation of the "good man's ſoul, becauſe he had "ſo many of his flock to take care "on, that it is ſuppoſed he had very "little time to look after his own?" "Lord, maſter," ſays the ſhamble-knee'd rogue, with his face ſhort-ened half in half,) "I find you are "one of us, and have been joking "me all this time; why, the money "is for that very uſe: no body could "know

" know it but one of the elect."
" One of the inſane, you mean, ſays
" I, you dried ſprat. — Here in-
" deed I was tempted, in my paſ-
" ſion, to call names; but as I had
" talked to him ſo cooly before, I
" thought I would keep my temper
" ſtill. — Why, you calves head
" without brains, ſays I, have
" not I ſeen you amongſt the rab-
" ble, with a mouth wide enough to
" ſwallow a common barn-door
" fowl, feathers and all, roaring a-
" gainſt popery and ſlavery; and
" now you ſwallow one of the groſſ-
" eſt tenets of popery which the diſ-
" guiſed Jeſuits, your preachers,
" every now and then ſuffer un-
" guardedly to appear barefaced, as
" Teague ſays, the devil ſometimes
" lets his cloven foot. At the men-

" tion of the word devil, he opened
" his ſhears, and put himſelf in an
" attitude, as if he deſigned to ſnip
" his head off the inſtant he appear-
" ed, although at the ſame time I
" could perceive the hair on the
" crown of his head making an ef-
" fort to riſe, but was ſo loaded with
" animalculæ, that only a few ſtrag-
" ling hairs could obey the impulſe,
" and thoſe indeed did ſtand as erect
" as a front line of grenadiers.
" What the devil is the matter with
" the fellow? ſays I, From whence
" comes this look of horror and diſ-
" may? " O Sir!" ſays the con-
" ſumer of cucumbers, " you have
" mentioned the devil twice, and he
" is not a gentleman to be joked
" with, unleſs at the Tabernacle; for
" there our holy teacher can handle

" him

" him as he pleaſes." Not ſo well, " ſays I, as he can handle your mo- " ney, you white livered varlet; " but what do you give him your " money for? " For his trouble in " ſaving my precious ſoul," ſays " ſtitch.—Why, ſirrah, ſays I, for " now I began, ſpite of my teeth, to " be in a real paſſion, you ſhal- " low crowned baboon, you walk- " ing ſkeleton, are you fool enough " to ſcrape, and cheat, and cabbage, " all you can lay your hands on, and " ſtarve your thin-gutted ſelf and " your whole family, in order to pay " a better price for your ninth part " of a ſoul, than the drunken hoſier " over the way does for a whole ſoul. " Let me ſee you work more on " week-days, inſtead of following " thoſe deſigning villains; ſteal leſs,

" and employ your earnings entirely
" for the uſe of your family; thank
" God with a grateful heart, when
" you go to bed, for his bleſſings:
" this will enable you to go decently
" dreſſed on a Sunday to your pariſh
" church, and, with a good conſci-
" ence, pay your devotions to your
" Maker, who entruſted every man
" with his own talent, and expects
" an account from himſelf, and not
" leave his reckoning to a holy attor-
" ney, who will be damned long be-
" fore he can put in an appearance
" for you. This will be the true
" way, not only to ſave that frac-
" tion of a ſoul of yours, but to
" give you courage in this world, nei-
" ther to be afraid of the devil, nor
" even mankind, who are ſeveral of
" them, I have reaſon to think, as
" bad,

" bad, if not worſe than the devil
" himſelf: ſo ſit down, and get my
" coat done, and work to-morrow
" to earn money, inſtead of faſting,
" and praying, and running in debt
" to change your three ſhillings into
" a quarter-guinea, to ſave the ſoul
" of a fellow that never himſelf be-
" lieved he had one to ſave. Do
" this, I ſay, or I'll beſpeak the
" darkeſt cell in Bedlam for you,
" and carry you thither myſelf in my
" great-coat pocket, although I muſt
" be obliged to give the keeper a
" certificate that you have for ſome
" years paſſed for a man, elſe he
" will ſwear I have brought him an
" Italian greyhound. Then with a
" ſtamp, that made him bounce off
" the floor like a pea from the end
" of a boy's piece of broken tobacco-

" pipe, I turned about and left him.
" What effect my advice had on him
" I can't tell, but my coat did not
" come home this morning." " No,"
ſays the gentleman to whom he was
telling his tale, " nor can it come
" home till night; for I ſaw the lan-
" thorn-jaw'd rogue coming out of the
" Tabernacle amongſt the thick of
" them, turning up the white of his
" eyes with more devotion than even
" mother Cole herſelf. So that all
" theſe amazing cool arguments of
" yours had no more effect on the
" infatuated varlet——than a city
" Remonſtrance has on a determin'd
" ——and your next ſuit and mine,
" (for I likewiſe employ the miſera-
" ble object,) muſt have ſeven and
" twenty-penny worth of extraordi-
" nary cabbage pared off the ſkirts,
" to

"to make up the difference betwixt
"three ſhillings and a five and three-
"penny piece."

CHAP. V.

A new faſhioned handkerchief for a courtier.

HERE my owner was called upon by Long Sir Timothy to go to the play; ſo up he ſtarted, and bid the waiter take pay for his diſh of coffee, and bring change; but Sir Timothy ſtopped the fellow, and after wiping his noſe with the inſide of his coat lap, told him to ſave the trouble of bringing change for the ſix-pence, he would drink a diſh of coffee himſelf. On which, having

minutes to ſpare, down they both ſat. Sir Timothy then bid the waiter bring a large ſlice of bread and butter, which, being inſtantly done, he rammed it down with as much celerity as the Norfolk farmers bolt their ſlices of bacon; then ſwallowing the coffee ſo hot that it would have ſcalded Powell the fire-eater, he ſtarted up, and ſhot like lightning, out of the room, for fear the waiter ſhould overtake him, and aſk for pay for his bread and butter: my owner not being able to get ſo quick after him, becauſe his ſword was a little entangled as he roſe from his ſeat, I heard the waiter ſay, "Score Sir Timothy a piece of bread and butter." "Not I," ſays the woman at the bar, "I gave over ſcoring when it came to a hundred,

"and

"and that's a year ſince." When my owner came out he found Sir Timothy waiting for him very contentedly in the rain; for altho' he had been at court that day, yet he was very ſenſible the rain could do very little damage to his uncurl'd tie wig, and ruſty thread-bare black coat, darned under both ſleeves, and the lining pieced on the corner of that ſkirt he ſo frequently made uſe of for a handkerchief; he therefore ſtood contentedly with his hat under his arm, bidding defiance to wind and weather; but neither my owner's hair or cloaths being weather-proof he called luſtily for a coach; as we were nigh a ſtand we heard a chirrup to the horſes, and the crack of a whip at the ſame inſtant. Whilſt the ragged Jehu was drawing

drawing up to the foot pavement, a man had got hold of Sir Timothy, and was preſſing him in a very miſerable tone to pay his ſmall bill; for, by the help of ſeveral as good cuſtomers as himſelf, he and his family were ſtarving. "Sir Timothy," ſays Mr. Villiers—"" pay that poor "creature, he ſeems to want it." "Rot him," ſays the knight of the greaſy ſkirt, "he always attacks me "when I have no change in my pock-"et; I have not a note leſs than fifty, "and he only wants five guineas; "can you lend me as much?" "Yes," ſays Mr. Villiers, and inſtantly put the money into his hand. On which Sir Timothy called the fellow aſide, told him to be at the coffee houſe immediately after the play, and have his receipt ready ſigned; then whipp'd into the coach

coach after Mr. Villiers, drew up the glaſs, and left the man to wait with his receipt, either in the rain or the coffee-houſe, which he pleaſed; where the poor devil may be waiting till now for Sir Timothy—who, I'll take upon me to ſay, won't ſee the inſide of that coffee-houſe again theſe twelve months, for fear the poor creature and his receipt ſhould be waiting ſtill. Thus, reader, what to you and me would have been a ſtrange embarraſſment, proved to the long-legged knight a lucky excuſe to borrow, or to ſpeak more properly, to ſteal five guineas; for we call it borrowing where there is an intent to pay, but no man can accuſe the worthy knight of ever ſuffering ſuch a thought to enter either into his head or heart. Why I call

it a lucky excuſe is, becauſe the knight had long before ſo quite exhauſted the whole catalogue of excuſes, ſuch as changing his breeches in a hurry; forgetting to call at his banker's; lending a worthy good-natured fellow as he came along all the money in his pocket, *cum multis aliis*, that he began in his old age to be a little at a loſs for freſh excuſes, the ſtale ones being as well known to all his acquaintance as his long legs and lank tye-wig; therefore Mr. Villiers furniſhed him with a lucky excuſe, by deſiring him to pay the poor man; and for his reward, I'll take upon me to aſſure him, that himſelf and the poor receipt-writer will neither of them have reaſon to boaſt of being firſt paid.

After

After the play was finiſhed, Mr. Villiers looked for his friend Sir Timothy; but he, worthy ſoul, not expecting another five-guinea excuſe could poſſibly happen that night, had given him the ſlip. As Mr. Villiers was but a new acquaintance of Sir Timothy's, having accidentally eaten a mutton-chop together that day, and there made an appointment to go to the play, he dreamed of little leſs than finiſhing the evening over a bottle with his new long-ſhank'd friend, and therefore haſtened back to the coffee-houſe, where he, as well as myſelf, heard Sir Timothy order the receipt-bearer to attend. No Sir Tim—could he ſee there; but he took notice of an induſtrious looking man that ſat in a corner, watching

ing the door, who he naturally gueſſed was the gentleman in waiting; but was further convinced it muſt be the ſame, becauſe whenever the door opened, the man looked up rather higher than the top of it, whereas for a middle ſized man people caſt their eyes not much higher than the centre of the entrance; however, the poor man kept ſipping his three-penny worth of punch by teaſpoonfuls to make it laſt, and Mr. Villiers kept reading the news-papers over and over again, till the hour began to approach,

When midnight wolves howl through the dreary waſte;

but no Sir Timothy came. The expecting parties might have ſtaid till doomſday before the expected heroe would

would ever have thought of them; his long legs had carried his long body in ſearch of another five-guinea touch;—whether he found one or not, if ever I have the good luck to hear, you ſhall certainly know.

CHAP. VI.

A ſleepy ſubject.

THE poor man having given over all hopes of ſeeing the knight of the woeful countenance, —with a heavy ſigh ſwallowed the laſt tea ſpoonful of his punch; then putting his hand to his pocket, with an air better imagin'd than deſcrib'd, making a face as if he was going to draw his bowels out inſtead of his money,

money, he advanced to the bar to diſcharge his great reckoning. Mr. Villiers, who only read with one eye, and, like the departed doctor, look'd ſharp about him with the other, had too much ſenſibility to let ſuch a thing eſcape him: he aſked the man as he paſſed by him, "if he had not "been waiting for Sir Timothy?" he anſwered with as long an aſpiration, as if he was ſucking the word up from the ſole of his foot, "Yes, Sir;" "Then," ſays Mr. Villiers, "as I was "partly the occaſion of your loſing "ſo much time, you muſt give me "leave to pay the little expence you "have been at," and inſtantly ordered the waiter to bring ſix-penny worth of punch more for the good man—he thank'd him with an air of gratitude, and replied, "Yes, Sir,

"the

"the loſs of my time was hard upon
"me to-night, for I was going where
"I ſhould have earned half a
"crown to have bought my fa-
"mily a dinner to-morrow, inſtead
"of which, after I had paid for
"my glaſs of punch, I ſhould
"have gone home with one ſingle
"halfpenny in my pocket." "What
"trade are you?" ſays Mr. Villiers;
"I was," ſays the man, "a cabinet-
"maker in good repute, but the cuſ-
"tom of two great men entirely
"broke me; and, at preſent, I ſup-
"port my family by doing little
"jobbs, and picking up a picture,
"or fitting up a curious little cabi-
"net now and then; and this debt
"of Sir Timothy's is for a picture
"that he ſold at an auction for five
"and twenty guineas, only by add-
"ing a three-guinea frame to it,

" which was never paid for." " Have " you ever a cabinet by you at pre- " ſent?" ſays Mr. Villiers;—" Yes, " Sir," ſays the man, " I have the " prettieſt little thing you ever ſaw, " and have fitted it up ſo well, " that it is not only as good " to appearance, but alſo better in " reality than a new one. I can " afford it for two guineas, tho' " it was never made for twelve." " Then," ſays Mr. Villiers, " pray " bring it to the third houſe in—— " Street, in the morning; here is a " guinea by way of earneſt; and if " it anſwers your deſcription, which " I don't doubt, I ſhall give you " three guineas inſtead of two for " it." The livelieſt fancy can hardly form an idea of the ſurpriſing change this made in the man's countenance; he

he took the guinea, but was unable to utter more than, "Thank you, "Sir, Sir, I thank you; thank you, "Sir, Sir, I thank you." Theſe words I believe he would have repeated as often as there are changes on ſix bells, if the waiter had not brought him the glaſs of punch, which chang'd his tone into "Your health, Sir,— "Sir, your good health." Then drinking it off with more ſatisfaction than the man that got the laſt patent of a thouſand a year could do for the ſoul of him, he made a bow, wherein gratitude was as ſtrongly painted as ingratitude is in the face of * * * *

In the morning the poor man, for fear of miſſing the hour of ten, the time appointed, was there at

half paſt ſeven. Mr. Villiers, who generally roſe at eight, hearing he was below, ſent for him and his cabinet up: it really anſwered the man's deſcription, but had coſt twice the ſum he ſaid, at leaſt; he had taken ſurpriſing pains in fitting it up, and Mr. Villiers, who was a judge, ſoon ſaw its value, he therefore gave him five guineas beſides his earneſt; the man took up only two, and ſaid, "that was enough of "all conſcience, and he thank'd him "kindly: but Mr. Villiers told him, "although it might be enough for "ſuch a reaſonable man to aſk, yet "it was not enough for him to give." This ended all diſputes, and the cabinet-maker went home as happy as a prince, leaving Mr. Villiers not only delighted with the opportunity

of

ſerving an honeſt induſtrious man, but actually ten or eleven pounds richer than he was the minute before the five guineas walked out of his purſe into Sir Timothy's breeches-pocket; where, notwithſtanding the ſhifts and ſhirks he practiſes daily to obtain a few guineas, he always puts them ſo hot into that long pocket, that they burn the bottom out.

CHAP. VII.

Pop in, and pop out.

MR. Villiers, though a man of faſhion, and kept the beſt company, yet delighted in variety; for which reaſon he ſeldom miſs'd

being once or twice a fortnight at an agreeable club of merchants, and better kind of tradeſmen, who met three days in the week at the Crown and Anchor, where he took a fancy to a little hatter, becauſe he perceived him, at the bottom, an honeſt, well-meaning man; he therefore not only bought all his own hats of him, but got him good cuſtom by recommendations. Now this honeſt little fellow being a bachelor, keeps but one ſervant, which he calls a maid of all work. When he gets drunk, which doth not happen above ſeven times a week, he is never ſo happy as when he is expatiating on the virtues of this virgin of his, eſpecially her ſobriety. One evening, when Mr. Villiers carried me to the club, whether this honeſt man had

had drank more than ordinary, or the vehemence with which he recounted the praiſes of this maid of all work, had driven the fumes of his liquor with more velocity than uſual into his pericranium, I know not, but ſo it happened, that the bruſher of new and old hats almoſt entirely loſt the uſe of his legs. My owner would have put him into a coach, but there was no ſnch thing as perſuading him, nothing being ſo certain, as that the more any man is overtaken, the ſoberer he fancies himſelf; therefore walk home he would, in ſpite of all Mr. Villiers could ſay; the conſequence was, the firſt ſtep he made after he quitted the iron rails, as he went down the ſtreet-door ſteps—carried him in a fine circumvendibus reel quite a-

croſs the ſtreet, where, luckily for him, but unluckily for herſelf, a poor woman happened to be carrying home a bundle of dirty linen to waſh; againſt her hips did his head come with ſuch a thump, that it ſent her headlong on the foot path, with the bundle rolling four or five yards before her; the woman thinking ſhe was knocked down with a blow on the head, inſtead of the tail, roared out, fire! thieves! and murder! ſo nimbly, that although ſhe pronounced every ſyllable diſtinctly, yet to me they appeared but one ſhort word. Mr. Villiers, who never ſuſpected the little dyer of hats would make ſuch a quick excurſion, and was therefore looking if he had not fallen through the iron-bars into the area,

ſoon gueſſed by the ſhrilneſs of the tone what was the matter; he therefore whipped a-croſs the ſtreet to ſet affairs to rights before the watchmen's lanthorns, which he ſaw hobbling along from different avenues, ſhould approach too nigh; being ſenſible that theſe gentlemen, like true peace-officers, always help to bring a ſkirmiſh to a ſerious battle, and then avail themſelves of the conſequence; a ſhilling, and ſome aſſiſtance to find her bundle, had ſent the poor woman off, with a curtſey, before the hobbling lanthorn-bearers arrived. Now the whole group of midnight magiſtrates, within the attraction of the voice, conſiſted of three (who, altho' not good men and true, were the beſt the pariſh could pick up) they agreed nem. con.

that it was a female voice; therefore taking the little hatter for a woman diſguiſed in men's cloaths, aſk'd her if any body was going to raviſh her.

I have heard ſome knowing people ſay, the firſt time a man is on ſhipboard, he fancies that every thing he ſees on ſhore, whether hedges, trees, or churches, or houſes, all move, becauſe he is not ſenſible of the motion of the machine he is in. Thus it fared with our little drunken hatter, he ſtill thought himſelf as ſober as a judge, and therefore fancied both the watchmen and their lanthorns drunk, becauſe to him they appeared to reel about; he therefore hickup'd out in a very rough voice, he thought them mighty ſad

fellows for getting ſo drunk on their ſtations, that they did not know a man from a woman. My owner foreſeeing a diſagreeable altercation was likely to ariſe between the drunken fool and ſober knaves, told the ſtouteſt of them he would give him ſix-pence to help him to ſee the gentleman home: a bargain was immediately ſtruck, and away we went, and ſoon reached the door of the hat-maker's houſe. The firſt thing my owner did was to diſmiſs the watchman; then knocking at the door, waited to deliver his overtaken friend into the hands of this peerleſs maid of all work, not doubting but ſhe knew how to get her maſter to bed, let him be ever ſo far gone.

After

After exerciſing the rapper three or four times, and waiting a good ſpace between each rap, the door at laſt opened, and we perceived a figure ſtanding upright againſt the wainſcot, which happened to be this jewel of a maid of all work, who being a very good girl, had ſympathized with her good maſter ſo much, that ſhe had kept drinking bumper for bumper with him the whole night. My owner told her, her maſter was a little overtaken, ſo he was reſolved to deliver him into her care; "Yes," ſays ſhe, with a hickup that would not have diſgraced a Dutchman, and ſtretching out her hand to take him, came tumbling out of the door the inſtant the hat-maker was tumbling in. In this dilemma what could my owner do?

do? To leave the diſtreſſed damſel all her length in the ſtreet, would have been cruel; and to help the ſervant before the maſter, was falſe heraldry; however, the bias that every honeſt man poſſeſſes towards the ſofter ſex, prevailed on him to give the preference to Peggy; ſo to work he fell with her, and got her up to the threſhold, where he found the hatter had ſome how or other raiſed his own body, and was tumbling over the threſhold out again. My owner fearing he would hurt himſelf, made a catch at him, by which means he let Peggy tumble in, and could not prevent Johnny from tumbling out. Zooks, thinks I, this is ſurely a Dutch weather-houſe, when the man goes in, the woman comes out, and when the woman goes in, the

the man comes out; they ſeem indeed to do it in a ſort of a hurry, but that may be owing to the ſudden change of the weather; this was only my firſt thought, but on ſecond thoughts (like moſt Engliſhmen) I found I was wrong.

Now that Peggy was laid ſafe in the paſſage, Johnny in the ſtreet was the object of my owner's attention; but firſt he thought proper, as the watchman's box was not forty yards from the place, to crave his worſhip's aſſiſtance; after begging pardon for diſturbing his reſt, and talking of ſix-pence, the ſound of which penetrated through his worſhip's thrum cap, the bearer of the ſtaff and lanthorn ſtarted up directly, and in an inſtant diſengaged one ear from

from its woollen coverlid, to liſten further about this ſix-penny jobb. To thoſe that wallow in riches, ſuch as contractors, commiſſaries, governors, nabobs, parliament-menwith penſions, and pimps that are paid on both ſides, the ſound of ſix-pence may not appear ſo conſiderable an object, as it did to our ſleep-catching watchman; but to five millions of his majeſty's ſubjects, eſpecially towards the North, a ſilver ſix-pence is a valuable piece of coin: you muſt not wonder then, if this truſty officer of the night, at the agreeable ſound, not only ſhook the god Morpheus from off his ſhoulders in an inſtant, but aſſumed as much alertneſs as if he had neither ſeen or heard of him that evening.

By

By the help of this tremendous knight of the burning lanthorn, my owner got Johnny raiſed off the pavement, and ſafely conducted into his own dining-room. Peggy having kept a good fire in it for two reaſons, viz. firſt to drink, and next to ſleep by, made the room feel pure and comfortable; here they laid Johnny down on the carpet, a ſtanding poſture not agreeing with his conſtitution at that period; next they fetch'd poor Peggy, who, by good luck, had diſcovered no inclination for another trip into the ſtreet, but lay as ſnug in the paſſage as a printer's devil between two worm-eaten blankets; poor overtaken Peggy they laid down cloſe by her overtaken maſter, without any fear of their overtaking one another; then my owner, by the help

help of the farthing candle borrowed from the refulgent lanthorn, found his way up to Johnny's bed, or Peggy's bed, call it which you pleaſe, for if you will allow two pillows to be creditable witneſſes, the bed belonged to them both; but be that as it may, my owner brought both the pillows down, along with the quilt and a blanket, which he carefully ſpread over them, and put a pillow under each of their heads, then letting down the latch of the ſtreet-door, and half-locking it on the outſide, he put the key in his pocket, and marched very ſoberly home.

CHAP. VIII.

A more ſerious adventure.

I Ended my laſt chapter with ſaying we marched very ſoberly home, I ſhould have ſaid, homeward; but many accidents, all ſailors know, happen in a homeward bound voyage: this was our caſe; we did not reach home by ſome hours ſo ſoon as was expected; for paſſing through Bartholomew-Lane, at the back gate of the Bank, we heard a rough voice ſay, "Damn "you, what are you? Or how "the devil came you to ſtand ſhi-"vering and ſtarving here?" A ſoft

ſoft female voice replied to this elegant ſpeech, "Pray, Sir, leave me; "I don't diſturb you, why ſhould "you diſturb me?" this excited my owner's curioſity, who began to move towards the place juſt as the firſt eloquent orator had opened his lips again. He therefore halted a moment, that he might not quite interrupt him, "Damn you, for a "bitch," ſays the orator, "what! you "pretend to modeſty, do you? go "with me and be damn'd, and "drink a pint of hot purl." "I "pretend to nothing, Sir, ſays ſhe, "but to die in peace, if mankind "will let me." Theſe words, and the tone with which they were uttered, had an inſtantaneous effect on my owner's ſenſibility, he therefore haſtened up to the place, and ſaid to the man,

whom he found to be a drunken journeyman-ſhoemaker, "Why do "you uſe this poor creature thus, "friend?" "What's that to you, "and be d——d;" ſays Criſpin, "ſhe is my prize, and if you don't "go about your buſineſs, I'll make "you, you jamfootering ſon of "a French whore." My owner, whoſe feelings were delicate to the higheſt degree, made it a rule never to ſay a rude thing, or ever take one; therefore, not being maſter of that ſort of oratory in which the ſhoemaker dealt, he return'd his compliment with his fiſt, and at one ſtroke ſent Criſpin's head to perform the part of the paviour's ſtamper by ramming down the ſtones, which it did in ſo complete a manner, you might have heard the ſound as far as that heavy lump of building

ing

ing called the Manſion-houſe. Criſpin, who did not like the blow on his right cheek ſo well as to offer his left, wiſely lay ſtill to take time to digeſt what he had got, being pretty well convinced a ſecond doſe would not much mend the matter. In the interim my owner advancing to the corner of the gate, where the poor young creature ſtood as much in the ſhade as poſſible, was ſurprized to ſee a very well-dreſſed lady all in tears, and ready to ſink into the earth, he aſked her, in his engaging manner, "if he could be of any ſer-"vice to her?" "O, Sir," ſays ſhe, with a voice ſweeter than the notes of the tuneful nightingale, "can "you ſhew me a place where I may "quietly lay down my wearied limbs "and die?" "Madam," ſays my

owner, (beyond meaſure touch'd with the ſweetneſs of her voice, and the manner of expreſſing herſelf,) "I can with more pleaſure "ſhew you a place that will contri-"bute to preſerve a life ſo much "worth taking care of, as yours "ſeems to be." "I believe, Sir," ſays the lady, "all that care will be "fruitleſs; I feel my heart is already "broken, and, I thank heaven, I "am haſtening faſt to my diſſolution, "without the enormous ſin of ſui-"cide, which I have all this day been "tempted to commit; twice was I "at the river-ſide, and as often did "my guardian-angel warn me back, "and now a ſettled reſignation to the "will of Heaven has taken poſſeſſion "of my ſoul, and I am all obedi-"ence to its juſt decrees; it was its

"will,

" will, that by the hands of cruel,
" deceitful man, I ſhould be ſtripp'd
" of every thing that could render
" life ſupportable, except my honour
" and innocence, which the inhu-
" man wretch could not ſtrip me of;
" to me they are an unſpeakable com-
" forts; but of what uſe are they
" in procuring friends, or even the
" mere neceſſaries of life?" My owner, ſtruck to the heart with her ſtile and ſweet delivery, was devouring her words, when he perceived her fainting away, he catched her in his arms, and bearing her to the ſteps, ſat himſelf down and ſupported her; ſhe continued inſenſible for a quarter of an hour at leaſt, during which time an empty chair came accidentally by. When the poor diſtreſſed lady was enough

vered to be able to ſupport herſelf on the ſeat, he put her into the chair, aſſuring her, ſhe ſhould be carried to a place of honour and ſafety; the ſcoundrel ſhoemaker had ſilently decamped when he found my owner ſo buſy in ſupporting the poor lady, for fear of getting a little more of what he was conſcious he deſerved. Mr. Villiers ordered the chairman to go very ſlow, and would not quit the ſide a moment, till they came to St. Paul's Church-Yard, where luckily finding a coach, with great difficulty he lifted her in, ſhe being already grown ſo weak, that ſhe was ſcarce able to ſtand, much leſs to mount up a ſtep without help; he ſeated himſelf by her, and, during the time of driving to the weſt-end of the town, he gave her the ſtrongeſt aſſu-

aſſurances of carrying her to a place of ſafety. She politely told him, "ſhe could ſuſpect nothing wrong "from a gentleman of his nice feel-"ings and ſenſibility, which ſhe "plainly perceived during the time "of her ſhort converſation with him;" but could not help adding in broken accents, "why did it not "pleaſe heaven to ſend you to my "aid before it was too late?" "It "is not, it ſhall not be too late," replies he——with uncommon emotion, "chear up your ſpirits, you "have loſt nothing, by your own ac-"count, but what with eaſe may be "either recovered or repaired, and "my fortune ſhall be devoted to "do both."

This unexpected goodneſs was too much for her ſhaken delicate frame, and

and grateful, though broken heart, to bear, and ſhe once more became lifeleſs, and would have fallen off the ſeat, if he now had not again caught her in his arms. She was juſt recovered when they arrived at the hotel in——Street, where he put her into the care of the miſtreſs of the houſe, a woman of character and reputation, who preſently prepared her ſome cordial, of which the poor creature could taſte very little, though, as it afterwards appeared, ſhe was faſting, and had wandered up and down, and about the town, above nine hours in a kind of delirium, having parted, with true ſpirit and diſdain, from the friend at whoſe houſe ſhe deſigned to have taken refuge the night before; this terrible day ſucceeding a ſleepleſs night,

night, makes it not ſurprizing that in ſo ſhort a ſpace of time ſuch amazing havock was made in ſo delicate a frame as hers, for ſhe was really a fine form'd creature; her features were amazingly well turned and regular, and there was ſomething ſo amiably ſoft, tender, and expreſſive in her countenance, as at once indicated her good ſenſe and delicate fine feelings, and the goodneſs of her heart was impreſſed on every feature, word, and action; theſe qualifications, all aided by a polite education, rendered her a moſt truly amiable creature.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

The ſubject of the laſt chapter continued.

MR. Villiers did not ſtay long, it being neceſſary for the poor lady to get a little reſt, if the perturbations of her mind would permit it. At parting he left his purſe with the miſtreſs of the houſe, and begg'd, ſhe would take the ſame care of her gueſt, as if ſhe were her own daughter; which ſhe promiſed to do, and was as good as her word; for he found the next day every thing done with the utmoſt tenderneſs and regard: one of the maid ſervants had attended

attended her bed-ſide, and in the morning a careful nurſe was provided; a good old apothecary had been conſulted about what was proper to recover her depreſſed ſpirits; in ſhort, Mr. Villiers was pleaſed with every thing that had been done; but became diſtreſs'd, to the laſt degree, when he found that although ſhe endeavoured in his preſence to aſſume a chearful ſerenity, yet even her bodily ſtrength was greatly impaired in one night; and it was with great difficulty, the nurſe ſaid, they could lead her from the bed to her chair, where ſhe ſat ſmiling at her approaching diſſolution.

Mr. Villiers, whoſe heart the night before had ſympathized very deeply in her diſtreſs, (much more indeed than

than he even was himſelf aware of) ſeeing the lovely creature, whoſe real charms were ſet off to more advantage by her dreſs being better adjuſted, ſitting, if I may uſe an old expreſſion, like Patience on a monument, could not bear it, but loſt all the philoſophy he uſed to value himſelf upon; the big round drops trickled down his manly face, and all his ſoul diſſolved in tenderneſs. He kneeled and begged ſhe would try to recover her ſpirits, if not for her own, yet for the ſake of a man whoſe fate had become involved with hers. "Nothing," ſays the tender creature, "could add to my diſtreſs "ſo much as that thought. I hope "heaven did not prolong my life a "day or two to make me the in-"ſtrument of bringing affliction to

"the

" the worthieſt of mankind. Let " not, O gracious God!" adds this good creature, with eyes lifted up to heaven, " Oh, let not the ſhort " ſpace of time thou haſt been " pleaſed further to prolong my life, " be the innocent means of giving " pain to any created being, much " leſs to the man thou haſt endowed " with ſo benevolent a heart." Theſe words, the ſweet manner of expreſſing them, and the goodneſs of heart, which at that time ſhone clearer than the ſun in its meridian, from every feature in her face, had quite the contrary effect to what the lovely creature deſigned it. From that moment his ſoul took fellowſhip with hers; and he formed a reſolution either to recover her, or not ſurvive her: perhaps ſuch a reſolution

tion may be thought ſudden; but you will ceaſe to wonder at it, if you conſider, that when all the faculties are beforehand melted into ſuch tenderneſs, every freſh impreſſion muſt ſtrike amazingly deep. Juſt then Doctor * * * whom Mr. Villiers had before ſent for, came in; after feeling her pulſe, and aſking a few queſtions, ſeeing the concern viſible on Mr. Villiers's face, he took him into another room to enquire the origin and cauſe of the lady's diſorder. From Mr. Villiers's account the good man was confirmed in the thoughts his ſkill at the firſt view had ſuggeſted of the lady's dangerous ſituation; but ſeeing grief painted in ſuch ſtrong colours in Mr. Villiers's face, he forbore to ſpeak his thoughts, hoping, nay, ardently

wiſhing his ſkill might this time be deceived. How unlike is this good man to ſome wretches of the faculty, who, rather than their ſkill ſhould be called in queſtion, would ſooner help a patient into his coffin, than ſet him upon his legs, ſuppoſing their ignorance really knew how.

The good Doctor told Mr. Villiers, that after two or three viſits he ſhould be able to form ſome judgment; at the ſame time aſſuring him, that being ſtill and quiet was the only probable method of reſtoring her, and therefore it would be abſolutely neceſſary for him to leave her alone. They then both returned into her room, where, whilſt the good man was preſcribing ſomething to raiſe the poor lady's ſpirits a lit-

tle, Mr. Villiers, with an endearing tenderneſs, too expreſſive to be deſcrib'd in words, was begging her to forget her ſorrows, and live for both their ſakes; then retired with the worthy Doctor, but ſeem'd to leave his ſoul and all the faculties of life behind.

About two o'clock the next day, Mr. Villiers went back to the place where he had left his ſoul; he found the amiable creature with pen and ink before her. "I have, Mr. Vil-"liers," ſays ſhe, at his entrance, "been writing above an hour." "Why would my dear angel," ſays he, "fatigue herſelf at this critical, "very critical time?" "Becauſe," replies the tender-hearted maid, "it "was neceſſary you ſhould know "who

" who I am; and to tell it to a man
" of your ſenſibility, would have diſ-
" treſs'd me ſo much, that I ſhould
" never have got through it. But
" now that my ſpirits are a little ſub-
" ſided, I recollect that there is left
" in the hands of that undeſerving
" woman, where I lodged, too ma-
" ny effects for thirty pounds, eſpe-
" cially as there are jewels, that were
" my mother's, of the real value of
" more than five hundred pounds;
" but my diſtraction did not ſuffer
" me to think of them." Then deli-
vering an inventory of all her cloaths,
&c. the particulars of which ſhe
had recollected as well as ſhe could,
" and that," ſays ſhe, (giving him
another paper) " is a ſhort account
" of the unhappy creature that your
" compaſſion would have ſaved,

" had it pleaſed Heaven I had " known you a day ſooner; but " the pleaſure it gives me to have " met with ſuch a worthy man, is " greatly allayed by the anxiety I " have unwillingly grafted in your " generous boſom. Take my ef- " fects," adds ſhe, " out of the hands " of that worldly-minded creature; " I ſhall feel a pleaſure in leaving " them in the hands of a man that " will make ſo charitable a uſe of " them as you will." " Talk not " of uſe for them," ſays Mr. Villiers, with a mixture of the greateſt tenderneſs and anguiſh, " but live, not " only to make uſe yourſelf of " them, but of every thing my for- " tune can procure you." " Ah! " call not my ſoul back," ſays the lovely ſufferer, " from the path of

" reſig-

" reſignation, where it is travelling
" to deliver itſelf up into the hands
" of the Divine Creator; nor make
" me quit, with regret, a world
" that I had with pleaſure reſign'd
" all deſires to dwell in. I would
" deny nothing that your generous
" heart would aſk, but this requeſt
" is out of my power; the fatal
" blow is ſtruck, and Heaven's will
" be done."

Never was ſuch a ſtriking picture of ſorrow and deſpair exhibited, as appeared at this inſtant in the face of Mr. Villiers. I thought he would have ſunk directly into the earth; he remained ſpeechleſs for a conſiderable time, whilſt ſtrong convulſions ſeemed to ſhake his whole frame. At laſt, the woman's part

of his compoſition came to his aid, and tears gave relief to thoſe convulſive emotions, which elſe muſt certainly have been fatal; tears courſed each other down his manly cheeks, and form'd a rapid current o'er his garments. At that inſtant the worthy Doctor * * * came in: he had ſeen the poor diſtreſſed lady about two hours before, and had formed a reſolution of telling Mr. Villiers his thoughts about the danger he apprehended ſhe was in; but ſeeing him ſo much more intereſted in her welfare than he could have ſurmiſed, he was puzzled what to ſay; altho' this third, gave him ſtill leſs hopes than the firſt and ſecond viſit. He ſaw her diſorder, which he at firſt clearly perceived aroſe from ſome fatal calamity, made dreadful havock

havock of her tender frame, and that ſhe was haſtening to that long home, from whence none ever yet returned: he therefore adviſed Mr. Villiers not only to ſuppreſs thoſe emotions, but to abſent himſelf for an hour, as his preſence much accelerated an event he ſo much dreaded. Mr. Villiers took his advice, and, with the moſt endearing accent, begged of her to try to live, and follow that worthy man's directions. Then retiring into the next room, took out the papers to read the account of the unfortunate poſſeſſor of his heart; the contents of which were as follows: but if I don't tranſmit them to my reader in as delicate and expreſſive terms as that pretty young creature did, it is no fault of mine; for her ſtile was,

like her manners and actions, inimitable.

CHAP. X.

Continuation of the ſtory of Miſs St. Vincent.

"I Am," ſays this delicate, worthy, unhappy young lady, "the daughter of a Weſt-India "gentleman, whoſe father left "him a very rich plantation; but "coming into poſſeſſion of it at "the age of twenty-two, five "years thoughtleſs round of plea-"ſures in and about town, join'd "with the robberies, as I may call "them, that all agents abroad will "be guilty of when they find their

"maſters

" maſters running behind hand, had
" ſo greatly impaired my father's ef-
" fects, that he found it highly ne-
" ceſſary to go over himſelf to take
" care of what little was left, car-
" rying with him my mother, the
" daughter of a deceaſed baronet,
" who he had married not eighteen
" months before, and whoſe fortune
" of five thouſand pounds had only
" ſerved to ſtop the current of duns
" for a very ſhort ſpace. I had then
" ſeen the light about three months,
" and was left under the care of the
" worthy Mr. Bonheart, my father's
" factor in town. His, and his wife's
" care of my education I ſhould ever
" have remembered with gratitude,
" had Heaven prolonged my life
" beyond the common ſpace allotted
" to the race of man, although the

" un-

" unworthy ſon of that worthy pair,
" has thus cut me off in the flower of
" my age. My father, notwithſtand-
" ing he had a very fine eſtate left,
" yet contriving, as four-fifths of the
" planters do, to be always a year
" behind hand, and of conſequence
" being forced to ſell cheaper and
" buy dearer than his provident
" neighbours, went rather back every
" year; ſo that at his death, which
" happened when I was about ſe-
" venteen, the ſmall matter he left
" me was in a moſt perplexed con-
" dition. My mother had been re-
" leaſed from the calamities of this
" frail life about a year before my
" father, ſo that he luckily appointed
" the worthy Mr. Bonheart his ſole
" executor, in truſt for me, with
" power to ſell, and do every

" thing

" thing he thought proper for my
" advantage, without being liable
" to be called to account even
" by myſelf. The extent of the
" truſt pleaſed the good man, and
" he repaid his confidence by care
" and tenderneſs for his daughter.
" The perplex'd remains of my fa-
" ther's fortune, which he was told,
" when all the debts were paid,
" would not be clear five hundred
" pounds, did this good man, by his
" aſſiduity, and thorough knowledge
" of the world, ſo well diſpoſe of,
" that when I came to the age of
" twenty-one, he delivered over to
" me Bank-ſtock for near ten thou-
" ſand pounds, refuſing at the ſame
" time the uſual commiſſion, for
" what he had been at the trouble
" to manage in ſo advantageous a
" manner:

" manner: nor did he leave a ſin-
" gle debt of my father's unpaid.
" Whether he felt himſelf in a de-
" clining ſtate of health, which made
" him ſo deſirous to ſettle with me,
" I can't ſay, but he did not ſurvive
" this act of uncommon friendſhip
" above a month, leaving his for-
" tune, which was reputed to be a-
" bout fifteen or twenty thouſand
" pounds, to his only ſon, who,
" though a wild young man, always
" regardleſs of buſineſs to all ap-
" pearance, ſeemed to have ſome
" good qualities in him: but, alas!
" that appearance, I find, was only
" to me, who wiſhed to think well
" of the ſon of ſuch kind benefac-
" tors as both the father and mo-
" ther had been to me. Unhappily
" his mother had been dead two

" years

" years before his father, elſe had
" I been with her; and ſhe, knowing
" him much better than me, would
" have ſaved me out of the ſnare in-
" to which my inexperience let me
" fall.

" Upon the marriage of a widow
" lady, a relation of my guardian's,
" with whom he plac'd me in the
" country when his wife died, be-
" ing then left to myſelf, I came
" to town, and took a ready-fur-
" niſh'd lodging at ſixty pounds a
" year in —— Street. About a fort-
" night after I was ſettled, young
" Mr. Bonheart came to pay me a
" viſit. I received him as a ſiſter
" would a brother, and indeed uſu-
" ally call'd him ſo, looking upon
" him as my foſter-brother, for his

" father

" father and mother had been the
" tendereſt of parents to me. He
" aſſum'd the air of a man of bu-
" ſineſs; told me that now the care
" of his own affairs were fallen up-
" on him, he felt more pleaſure in
" regulating his own concerns, than
" he ever did in all the hours of his
" wild extravagance; that buſineſs
" went on ſwimmingly, and that if
" the old gentleman had left him
" twice as much, he could employ
" it every penny, not only in the
" ſervice of his friends abroad, but
" with great advantage to himſelf.
" And, Polly," ſays he, with a care-
" leſs air peculiar to himſelf, " when
" I am worth fifty thouſand, and
" can ſupport you as you ought to
" be, I'll then make my addreſſes
" to you." I laugh'd, and told
" him,

" him, we were too near a-kin; for I
" always really look'd upon him as
" my brother. After a little more
" converſation we parted. At going
" out, I deſired he would call any
" time that did not interfere with
" buſineſs, which he did two or
" three times in a fortnight, not
" ſtaying above ten minutes, pre-
" tending hurry of buſineſs, and
" ſaying, " It is all long of you,
" Polly; for I will be worth half a
" plumb before I ſpeak a word to
" you." I told him, when he was
" worth half a plumb, I would do
" all in my power to help him to a
" good wife; but I never, ſays I,
" can change the ſiſterly affection I
" bear you into any thing elſe.
" I'll try that," ſays he " when I have
" completed my wiſhes, which I
" am

"ſo anxious about, that I employ
"every guinea I have in the world,
"and walk the town round many
"a day with two or three ſhillings
"in my pocket." Here was a bait
"thrown out for an open heart like
"mine, which from the knowledge
"this—(I ſhudder to call the ſon
"of my benefactor, villain, yet,
"alas! I fear the name is too good
"for him;) I ſhall therefore ſay,
"from the knowledge that this bad
"man had of me, could hardly fail
"of ſucceſs. What need you,
"(ſays I) run yourſelf ſo cloſe, when
"you know I can always aſſiſt you
"for a little time with five hundred,
"or even a thouſand pounds, upon
"an emergency: if I was to loſe a
"thouſand in helping the ſon of my
"benefactor it would do me no great
"damage,

" damage, becauſe it would be only
" a gown a year leſs. " Polly, " ſays
" this hypocrite, " I would not ſuffer
" you, who have nothing but your in-
" tereſt to live upon, to riſque a thou-
" ſand pounds; trade is precarious,
" even with the moſt careful, though
" I take the greateſt precautions
" imaginable; but as far as five hun-
" dred goes, when I can make a con-
" ſiderable advantage of it, I'll trou-
" ble you to truſt me a fortnight or
" three weeks with that ſum; an op-
" portunity may happen, perhaps in
" two or three days, perhaps not in
" a month." Saying this we parted.

" To make ſhort a ſtory which
" draws the vital blood from
" my heart much ſwifter than the
" ink can flow from my pen, he
" got me ſoon after to ſell five hun-

" dred ſtock for him, and reinſtated
" it punctually in ten days or leſs:
" this he repeated four or five
" times in about ſix months, boaſt-
" ing what great advantage he made
" of it, and apologizing at the ſame
" time for the trouble he gave me
" of going ſo often down to the
" Bank to transfer. I begged of
" him not to think of that, as
" the pleaſure of being uſeful to
" my brother, the ſon of my bene-
" factor, more than repaid twenty
" times the trouble. Thus did this
" vileſt of men carry on the farce
" till two or three days before the
" fatal night you found me ſo for-
" lorn and diſtracted. In the morn-
" ing he came to breakfaſt with me,
" and told me he had been ponder-
" ing all night about me, as my in-

" tereſt

"tereſt was as dear to him as his own.
"Polly," ſays he, "we are at the eve
"of a war; ſtocks began to drop
"yeſterday, and, in a week's time,
"I am ſure will be ten per cent.
"lower." What would you have
"me do, brother? ſays I, "I would
"have you," ſays he, "ſell out this
"very day, and turn your money
"into India bonds; they are at a
"ſmall premium now, ſo nothing
"can be loſt by them; I'll go with
"you to aſſiſt you in ſelling and buy-
"ing; then, to keep you ſafe from
"all accidents of fire and thieves, I
"will call with you to lodge the bonds
"at Child's, where they will be ſafe.
"I am certain this day's work will
"be a thouſand pounds difference
"to my dear ſiſter." Every thing
"appeared ſo clear to me, eſpecially

" his care in the laſt article of lodg-
" ing the bonds ſo ſafe, that, after
" a little more diſcourſe, I ordered
" a coach, and drove with him down
" to the city: we got out at his
" hoſier's, in whoſe dining-room I
" ſat till he fetch'd his broker, who
" brought a purchaſer along with
" him; and we croſſed over to the
" Bank, where I transferred ſtock
" to the value of nine thouſand ſe-
" ven hundred pounds. To ſave me
" the trouble, he counted the Bank-
" notes as he took them from the
" broker, deſiring me to overlook
" him to ſee if he received right;
" then wrapping them up, held out
" his hand in the poſture of pre-
" ſenting them to me, but ſuddenly
" turned to the broker, and deſir'd
" him to fetch his friend with the
" India-

" India-bonds directly, and come
" to us at the hoſier's: then hold-
" ing the notes in his left hand, and
" puting out his right arm for me
" to lean upon, we walk'd to the
" hoſier's; I had juſt ſet my foot on
" the ſtep into the ſhop, when he
" pretended to ſee the broker with
" the bonds. " Go up ſtairs, ſiſter,"
" ſays he, " and I'll overtake him,
" and be with you in a moment."
" He did not, however, return in
" leſs than half an hour, which made
" me think he ſtaid long; but at laſt
" he came with ſo well-meaning a
" face, that I was angry with my-
" ſelf for being uneaſy. " Polly,"
" ſays he, " I found that Mr. Sharp
" the broker could not bring ſo large
" a ſum, without the aſſurance of a
" banker having money ready to pay

" for them, ſo I lodged the money
" in your name at Meſſrs.——and
" got them to give him a line that
" the caſh was ready there; ſo they
" will receive the bonds, and have
" them ready for us in the morning.
" But now I think of it, I might
" have lodg'd the notes in my own
" name, becauſe it will give you the
" trouble of coming again into the
" city to-morrow; though, on re-
" collection, as it would be prudent
" to carry them to Child's directly,
" your journey hither is not much
" further than to Temple-Bar. He
" then order'd my ſervant to call a
" coach with ſo eaſy an air, that for
" the life of me I could not ſuſpect
" any thing wrong, but went home,
" thoroughly ſatisfied he would call
" on me at breakfaſt in the morning;

" but

" but no Mr. Bonheart came. I was
" ſomething alarmed; but about
" two o'clock I received a note that
" Mr. Sharp had only procured five
" thouſand, and could not get the reſt
" till the morrow, when he would
" finiſh, and I might have them all
" together; this quieted me again:
" but in the morning, when no Mr.
" Bonheart appeared, about twelve
" o'clock I ordered a coach, and
" taking nobody but the footman
" with me, drove inſtantly to his
" houſe; I flew directly in, and aſk-
" ing for the maid Nanny, an old
" ſervant that lived with his father;
" ſhe met me with ſuch looks of
" horror and diſmay upon her coun-
" tenance, as ſhock'd me to the laſt
" degree. " Oh! madam," ſays
" Nanny, " what brought you hi-

"ther?" "I came," says I, "in "search of your master." "I hope," "says the poor creature, "he has "not been borrowing money of you, "for all the neighbours say, he is "gone off Heaven knows what in "debt, and has taken in all the friends "and acquaintance that would trust "him; I was afraid something of "this sort would happen, for he ne-"ver minded business at all, but "lay six nights out of seven in some "bad house in Covent-Garden, or "sat up all night gaming; we have "not seen him since the other day "morning, and I am afraid is is too "true, for here has been a hundred "duns at the door since he went, "and they say, bailiffs will be in "the house to-morrow." At these "words I sunk down upon the floor;

"the

" the poor creature did all in her
" power to assist me, and brought
" me to myself, when I told her how
" he had served me: Barbarous
" wretch, adds I, not to leave me
" a poor thousand to keep want
" and misery from the door. The
" old faithful servant sympathized
" greatly with me in my distress, and
" would see me home. I sat down
" in my chair in a state of insensi-
" bility, and continued so till about
" five o'clock, when I was roused by
" a loud rap at the door of my
" dining-room, which was immedi-
" ately followed by the entrance of
" my landlady, who, in a tone I
" had never been used to, addressed
" me with, " Madam, I have heard
" all your misfortune from the gen-
" tlewoman that set you home, and

" I am

"I am ſorry for it; but we that
"have little elſe to depend on but
"the rent of our lodgings, muſt look
"to ourſelves; there is half a year's
"rent due to-morrow, and as it is
"not likely you can ſtay here, I de-
"ſire you will provide yourſelf
"lodgings againſt to-morrow night,
"but not a rag of your cloaths ſhall
"ſtir till I am paid." Had I been
"miſtreſs of ſpirits enough to
"have anſwered her, aſtoniſhment
"would have held me mute; but
"ſhe gave me no time to reply be-
"fore ſhe turned upon her heel and
"went out. Indignation then ſup-
"plied the want of ſpirits; reſolv-
"ing therefore to ſtay no longer
"under the roof of a wretch ſo loſt
"to all ſenſe of humanity. I put
"on my cloak, and walked away on

"foot

" foot to the houſe of a woman who
" had been my own maid above
" eleven years, and to whom I had
" given two hundred pounds for
" her portion to an induſtrious man
" that kept a kind of grocer's ſhop;
" I told her I was come to beg a
" bed of her for a night, or perhaps
" a week or more. She anſwer'd,
" ſhe ſhould be happy if I would
" make uſe of her ſmall apartment
" for a year, or as long as I pleaſed;
" then prepared, as ſhe ſaw I was
" faint, to get a diſh of tea ready
" as faſt as poſſible, in the little
" room on the back of the ſhop.
" Whilſt I was trying to ſwallow a
" a ſpoonful or two to refreſh me,
" for I was almoſt faſting, ſhe at-
" tended me with ſo much care,
" and ſeemed to partake ſo feelingly

" in

" in the deep affliction ſhe perceived
" I was involved in, that I promiſed
" to myſelf ſome eaſe, not only in
" diſburthening my griefs to her,
" but in receiving the pity and con-
" dolance of ſuch a grateful crea-
" ture; I therefore recounted every
" particular to her, adding what an
" inhuman wretch he was to leave
" me nothing. " Nothing, Madam,"
" ſays ſhe, with ſome eagerneſs:
" no; ſays I, not ſo much as will
" pay wages to my man and maid,
" and rent for my lodgings. At
" theſe words, almoſt diſtracted as
" I was, I could perceive the wo-
" man's countenance ſo chang'd,
" that there was not the leaſt ap-
" pearance of that reſpectful air it
" always bore in my preſence: ſhe
" went abruptly out of the room, on

" pretence

" pretence of ſerving a cuſtomer,
" though her huſband was in the
" ſhop; then, inſtead of returning,
" ſtaid conſulting with him, ſerving
" a ſtraggling cuſtomer or two as
" they now and then came in, leav-
" ing me alone for about half an
" hour: at laſt ſhe returned, and
" with an aſpect, which was a ſtran-
" ger to me, having never worn it
" in my preſence before, began to
" waſh up the china as cooly as if
" I had not been in the room, ſeem-
" ing all the time big with ſome-
" thing to which ſhe wanted to give
" utterance: at laſt it came, " I am
" ſorry, Madam," ſays ſhe, " that
" my huſband ſhould be ſuch a
" fool as not to tell me that he this
" very morning let our fore-room to
" a gentleman, and he comes to-
" morrow;

" morrow; and gentlemen to be ſure
" muſt not be diſappointed, when
" they have given earneſt; but for to-
" night to be ſure you are very wel-
" come to our bed." She added a
" great deal more, but the ſudden
" ſhock of ſuch ingratitude had be-
" gun to ſtrike too ſenſibly on my
" feelings, which drove reaſon from
" her throne, and anarchy and con-
" fuſion uſurp'd her place. I fix'd
" my eye on the woman ſo ſtedfaſtly,
" without being able to ſpeak, that
" ſhe could not ſtand it, but took
" the china-board, and went to finiſh
" her work in the ſhop. It was then
" my reaſon began to ſtagger in ear-
" neſt, and I only faintly recollect
" what followed; I remember tak-
" ing my cloak, and walking thro'
" the ſhop, where I laid down a ſhil-

" ling

" ling on the counter, ſaying, " that
" is for my tea," with ſuch an air of
" diſdain, that neither of the ſordid
" creatures could anſwer a word; but
" he kept weighing ſomething, and
" ſhe kept rubbing the tea-pot, as if
" they had never ſeen me. From that
" moment I can recollect hardly any
" thing, but that I wandered in a
" ſtupid kind of inſenſibility, and
" muſt have walk'd from the hour
" of ſix in the evening to three in
" the morning a great number of
" miles; for I gave no reſt to the
" ſole of my foot, till a few minutes
" before you found me; and had it
" not been for that poor vulgar
" creature, whoſe voice brought you
" to the place from whence my fee-
" ble limbs could bear me no fur-
" ther, I ſhould long before day-light

" have

" have found eternal reſt. I very well
" remember my ejaculation, at Mill-
" bank, where I was going to ruſh
" headlong into the Divine Preſence,
" by throwing myſelf into the ſtream;
" when the Almighty ſuddenly re-
" ſtored my reaſon, and I ſaw in its
" proper light the horrid ſin of ſui-
" cide. Methought I heard my guar-
" dian-angel ſay, " Await, Maria,
" with patience, and run with reſig-
" nation the race the Almighty hand
" has mark'd out for thee; how
" ſhort are the longeſt ſufferings in
" this world, when compar'd to an
" eternity of happineſs!" [On this
" I turn'd with horror from a place
" where I was ſo near committing
" ſo dreadful a crime, but ſoon found
" my reaſon, by being too buſy in
" making reflections, quickly brought

" on a train of ideas, in which ſhe her-
" ſelf was again involved and loſt.
" How I reached the New-River I
" know not; but, at Iſlington, juſt
" as I was again attempting to
" plunge in, it pleaſed the Divine
" Goodneſs once more to reſtrain
" me. Methought I felt an invi-
" ſible hand draw me back; and a
" voice ſay, " Raſh girl, tempt not
" the Almighty Creator of heaven
" and earth."

" I then in good earneſt reſolved
" to bear my afflictions patiently,
" till it ſhould pleaſe the hand of
" God to lay me down in peace.
" How I wandered to the place
" where you found me I know
" not; I only, as I ſaid before,
" remember my exhauſted ſpirits,

" and wearied limbs would ſupport
" me no further."

CHAP. XI.

The ſtory of the unhappy injured lady continued.

NOthing can equal the different emotions raiſed alternately in the breaſt of Mr. Villiers on reading this account; the villany of young Bonheart did not much ſurprize him, becauſe he knew his character very well; only he could not have ſuppoſed a fiend from hell poſſeſſed of ſo little remorſe, as not to leave a pittance to ſupport life, but entirely deſtroy an amiable young creature, who had as much affec-

tion

tion for him as if ſhe had been his real ſiſter: but the vulgar ſelfiſhneſs of the woman of the houſe, and the ingratitude of her quondam ſervant, to whom ſhe had been ſo uncommonly kind, ſtruck him beyond meaſure; a flood of love and tenderneſs for the dear ſufferer, mix'd with rage and contempt for the other deteſtable objects, fix'd him about half an hour on his ſeat before he could reſolve what courſe to purſue. At laſt, recollecting that the Doctor had deſired him to abſent himſelf as much as he could, to give the poor lady time to recruit her ſpirits a little, becauſe his preſence, and the concern he could not hide, affected her ſo much; he therefore thought the propereſt time offered to go and take care of her

effects; ſo calling on a gentleman of the law, deſired his aſſiſtance, and away they went to Mrs. Letlodge's houſe. The woman was luckily at home: Mr. Villiers aſk'd her, "if ſhe had any lodgings to lett?" ſhe replied, "ſhe had a firſt floor;" upon which he deſired to ſee it. The woman ſuſpecting nothing of the matter, and being ſenſible that ſhewing the lodgings in the neat, elegant condition the lady had left them, muſt be a great recommendation, having been embelliſhed, by the pretty creature, with a thouſand neat, little elegant pieces of furniture of her own; the woman therefore conducted them up without heſitation. Whether a prepoſſeſſion, in favour of every thing belonging to the dear lady was the caſe, I won't ſay, but Mr. Villiers

Villiers was ſtruck beyond meaſure with the neatneſs, taſte, and elegance of the rooms. "Bleſs me!" ſays he, in a kind of ſeeming ſurprize, "by "the toilet and neatneſs, ſome lady "has lodged here?" "Yes;" ſays the woman, compoſedly, "a lady "that went into the country about "a fortnight ago." "Did her ſer- "vants go with her?" ſays Mr. Villiers, gravely: the woman a little diſconcerted at this queſtion, an- ſwered confuſedly, "Yes; no; I "can't tell." "But I can," ſays Mr. Villiers, no longer able to con- tain himſelf, "and our viſit here is "on Miſs St. Vincent's account; this "gentleman has my lord chief juſ- "tice's warrant againſt you, for "locking her ſervants out of her "own lodgings, and ſtealing her

"goods. As no bail can be taken "in criminal affairs, ſuch as theſe, "you muſt prepare to go with us "directly." "Dear gentlemen," ſays the woman, ready to ſink thro' the floor, "I have not ſtirred a rag "of hers but her jewels, which I "took into my own room for more "ſafety, from whence I will fetch "them directly." "For more ſafety, "deed," ſays Mr. Villiers; "but "you muſt give me leave to attend "you whilſt you fetch them." So ſaying, he followed her up to her own bed-room, where ſhe pulled the jewels out of a great cheſt, fill'd with old gowns and petticoats, in the centre of which ſhe had ſtuffed them. To make ſhort with this woman, whoſe company I don't like at all, they got out of her, that

Miſs

Miſs St. Vincent's maid-ſervant had taken the front-garret over the way, where the poor creature ſat all day, and moſt of the night, watching her miſtreſs's return; this devil, the landlady, as Mr. Villiers gueſſed, having turn'd both her and the footman out of doors, the very day after ſhe found Miſs Vincent did not return. Upon which Mr. Villiers ſent his ſervant for her, and telling her he had orders to carry her to her miſtreſs, he ſet both her and the footman to work to pack up all the dear creature's apparel, &c. &c. deſiring the girl to recollect if any thing was wanting, at the ſame time taking the inventory out of his pocket: on this the woman reſolv'd to recollect firſt, and recollected that ſhe had taken care of the beſt

laces, becauſe they were the moſt valuable articles after the jewels. I could not help thinking ſhe would have made a fine aid decamp to ſuch a general as * * * * becauſe ſhe could ſo readily diſtinguiſh the cream of the plunder. When all was pack'd up, and put into two coaches, Mr. Villiers ſtill kept up the farce of my lord chief juſtice's warrant, with which, aided by the guilt of her evil intentions, he had no difficulty in making her glad to accept of the ornaments and fixtures left behind, (which, with the additional kitchen-furniture Miſs St. Vincent had bought, could not have coſt leſs than a hundred pounds, and were, in reality, worth ſeventy to the woman) as a full recompence for the thirty guineas due for rent. Thus did the

gene-

generous heart of Mr. Villiers puniſh a wretch that I would have half hanged, by giving her as much more as was her due; but he conſidered, that to pull and tear the things down, would render them of no more value than juſt to pay the rent, he therefore choſe to let even an unworthy woman enjoy the benefit, rather than do miſchief for miſchief's ſake.

CHAP. XII.

Miſs St. Vincent in continuation.

NOthing could have given more pleaſure to Miſs St. Vincent than the ſight of her old ſervant at that critical juncture, but the poor girl

girl was ſo ſhock'd at ſeeing ſuch a change in ſo ſhort a ſpace, that ſhe had much ado to ſupport it; but, by a lucky preſence of mind ſhe got her emotions partly ſuppreſſed, leſt it might affect her miſtreſs, who ſeemed to want no additional diſtreſs, to aſſiſt a diſorder that had made ſuch viſible progreſs in ſapping the foundations of ſo precious a life: ſhe therefore began to give her miſtreſs an account how Mr. Villiers had found her, and in what manner he had brought away all her apparel, &c. adding, that ſhe was ſorry he had given the hard-hearted wretch ſo much for her rent; "and I "ſhould have been ſorry," ſays this amiable temper'd creature, "had he "given her leſs than her real due; "for her ſordidneſs is no rule to a "gene-

" generous boſom. But," ſays ſhe, " where is this worthy creature? " where is Mr. Villiers? tell him," added ſhe, (gueſſing his motive for ſtaying away) " that my ſoul in his " abſence wings its flight much faſter " than when he is preſent; and if " any thing could detain it here on " earth, it would be a deſire of giv- " ing relief to an anxiety that I " have had the misfortune to lodge " in the boſom of the beſt of men." Mr. Villiers was juſt opening the door gently, when he heard her pronounce theſe words; on which he approached her ſoftly, and kneeling, took her hand; " O lovely Maria," ſays he, " can you wiſh to relieve " my anguiſh, and not take the only " method to do it, by ſtriving to " live?" " If my endeavouring to

" live," ſays ſhe, with a look of ineffable goodneſs, " will alleviate " your ſorrows, be aſſur'd my ut- " moſt efforts ſhould not be want- " ing; but the Almighty Ruler of " this world has ordained it other- " ways; I muſt therefore beg, that " you will let the gentleman of the " law draw a ſmall writing to empow- " er you not only to take care of my " little effects, but to call the inhu- " man wretch to account, who has " thus cruelly deſtroy'd me. I think, " if ever he returns to this country, " although I would not touch his " life, yet he ought not peaceably to " enjoy the fruits of ſuch cool, de- " liberate villainy." " If, after the " loſs of my Maria, (which Heaven " forbid)" ſays Mr. Villiers, " I " ſhould chance to ſurvive, my only " motive

" motive to endure life, will be to " ſeek that wretch to the end of the " world." " Why," ſays the lovely ſufferer, " will you diſmiſs my ſoul, " diſquieted within me, by the dread " of involving a worthy man in a " quarrel, with a wretch below his " notice? Promiſe me to leave him " to the juſt laws of his country, and " the ſtings of his own conſcience, " or you will load the few moments I " have to breathe with more diſquiet " than any thing I have yet felt." " I do; my ever adorable angel, I " do" replies Mr. Villiers, " pro- " miſe, that I will obey your injunc- " tions in every thing you wiſh." On this the dear creature, with a look of inexpreſſible complaiſance, murmured out, " I thank you; " but where," ſays ſhe, " is this " friend of yours, the attorney?"

Mr.

Mr. Villiers, knowing he was in the houſe, waiting to ſee him again before he went away, ſent for him into the room; he directly drew a little ſketch of what ſhe intended, which ſhe ſigned, ſaying, "It is "needleſs to recommend my poor "ſervants to your care." Then, as if ſhe had no further uſe for life, ſhe ſunk back in her chair, quite motionleſs; at that inſtant the phyſician came in, he ſoon perceived the cold hand of death was on her, tho' he ſeem'd to think the inexorable tyrant had been more eager to ſnatch his prey than he could poſſibly have expected; but hearing what, at her earneſt requeſt, they had been doing, "I am not ſurprized then," ſays he, "that the exertion of the ſmall ſhare "of ſpirits ſhe had left, has ſhort-

"ened

"ened her precious life a few hours." All this time Mr. Villiers was ſtanding as immoveable and as ſenſeleſs as a marble ſtatue, holding her left hand in both his, whilſt the Doctor was feeling for a pulſe, and trying, with a poliſh'd glaſs, if ſhe yet breath'd; when ſhe once more open'd her lovely eyes, and fix'd them with a look of unſpeakable tenderneſs for ſome moments on Mr. Villiers firſt; then caſt them up to Heaven, and inſtantly cloſed them for ever. Thus fell, by the cruel hand of unrelenting man, an earthly ſeraphim, who, had ſhe liv'd, would have been as much the ornament of her own ſex, as the delight of ours.

Reſt thy precious ſoul, ſays I; if my thin body could vye with the clouds

clouds in ſhedding tears, I would exhauſt their fountains dry in bewailing thy loſs.

CHAP. XIII.

The author parted from Mr. Villiers.

I Have heard philoſophers aſſert, that extremes of ſudden joy are more dangerous than extremes of ſorrow; but here ſorrow proved fatal indeed; her delicate frame, nurs'd from a tender plant by the care of her worthy guardian, in a greenhouſe where the ſun eternally ſhone, ſhrunk beneath the bitter blaſt it was ſo ſuddenly expoſed to; ſhrunk, never to rear its beauteous head again. Death too greedily ſeized that

that opportunity of laying its icy hand, and clapping the ſeal of eternal night upon ſuch blooming merit.

Mr. Villiers had juſt recovered ſenſe enough to receive her laſt glance, and ſee her expire; which threw him not only back into a ſtate of inſenſibility, but ſeemed to threaten moſt alarming effects; therefore his friend, Mr. Meanwell, judging that the ſight of the dear object, to him and to the world for ever loſt, would only ſerve to increaſe an emotion already grown too powerful for him to controul, ordered a chair directly, into which he was carried quite inſenſible, and conveyed home, the good ſollicitor attending the ſide of the chair all the way, and aſſiſting his own ſervant

to keep him from falling off the ſeat; he was inſtantly put to bed, where he lay three weeks before any judgment could be formed whether grief would not have a worſe effect on him than it even had on the poor departed angel, by depriving him of his ſenſes; but nature at laſt got the better, and his reaſon began to return: the firſt inſtance he gave of it was his ſaying, "And why "would the ever lovely Maria die, "and leave me behind?" "Becauſe," ſays Mr. Meanwell, "ſhe left you "behind to call to a ſevere account "the villain that murder'd her." "And, by Heavens, ſo I will," ſays he, making an effort to riſe, but was ſo enfeebled he was not able. "So you ſhall," ſays Mr. Meanwell, "but to accompliſh it, inſtead of

"lament-

" lamenting what Heaven decreed,
" and therefore can't be recalled,
" you muſt endeavour to regain that
" health and vigour neceſſary to ac-
" compliſh your end, it being a taſk
" worthy your great ſoul."

Although the worthy Mr. Meanwell deſigned nothing but to drive out one paſſion by ſubſtituting another, leſs dangerous, in its place, yet I have reaſon to think, he unwarily laid the foundation of a troubleſome piece of work for Mr. Villiers; who, now that reſentment ſupplied the place of grief, recovered his ſtrength amazingly faſt, and, in leſs than a fortnight, was able to go abroad. Mr. Meanwell had taken care to order a genteel funeral for Miſs Vincent, at which her man and

maid attended, and were, I believe, the moſt real mourners that have followed a hearſe in town for theſe fifty years paſt. The firſt thing Mr. Villiers did, was to order mourning for his dear loſt Maria; then ſending for the man and maid, he gave them all her cloaths, and one hundred pounds a-piece, reſerving her jewels as precious reliques, to be eternally preſerved in remembrance of her. Then took ſuch pains to write abroad, to enquire where the villain reſided; that in leſs than three months he heard the wretch was ſquandering the fruits of the dear lady's murder at Venice: thither he inſtantly prepared to follow him; but, unluckily, as he would not leave a ſingle debt unpaid, I was delivered, along with

ſome

ſome other notes, into the hands of the long-jaw'd undertaker, that had the gloomy pleaſure (for pleaſure it is to thoſe people) of performing the laſt ſad office, man could render to the departed ſaint.

Whether the Great Diſpoſer of all things ſuffer'd Mr. Villiers to find the wretch, and make an example of him, or permitted him to drag on a life that muſt ſoon become a prey to poverty, infamy, and a guilty conſcience, I know not, and therefore am as much unable to ſatisfy my reader's curioſity as my own; but of this, gentle reader, be aſſur'd, that although to our ſhort-ſighted intellects, the ways of Heaven ſeem dark and intricate, yet nothing is more certain than that an

unerring hand rules over all, and what ſeems to us partial evil, always tends to the general good.

CHAP. XIV.

Long faces not always ſure ſigns of grief.

MY laſt chapter ended with my falling into the hands of Mr. Longjaws the undertaker; away he walk'd home with me, another kind of a pace than his funeral-march, for now he not only trotted, but whiſtled all the way: his tune indeed was the Babes in the Wood, but that to him, I ſuppoſe, was a merry tune, becauſe it exhibited an idea of two buryings at once. When he came home,

home, he aſk'd, "who had enquired "for him?" "Sir," ſays an odd looking fellow, with a phiz as dark as the ruſty black coat he had on, and therefore qualified for a deep mourner, "Mr. Ticktack the clockmaker's "daughter is dead, and he has or-"dered a handſome coffin with grey "ſuperfine and beſt furniture." "Ve-"ry well," ſays Longjaws, raiſing the key of his tune, and giving an additional ſhake every other bar. "And," ſays the fellow, "the grocer's "wife over the way can't live, ſo he "has beſpoke a coffin, covered with "ſuperfine black." "Better ſtill," ſays Longjaws, ſhaking the laſt bar of his tune ſo long and ſo loud, I thought he deſign'd to bring the top of his ſhop down. What a fellow is here! thinks I; by his own good

will I find he would make no bones of whiſtling all the world into the church-yard, though he left nobody to liſten to the trill of his wind-pipe but his own dear ſelf. I began to wiſh myſelf out of his company, for fear of his whiſtling me into ſome church-yard or other; but fortune did not favour my wiſhes, till I had done pennance with this maſter of ceremonies to the dead for eight or ten days; during which time, what with his whiſtling, and what with that ſable-fac'd journeyman of his driving nails into coffins, I receiv'd ſuch a ſhock in the drum of my ears, that I lay three days in the pocket of a woollen-draper, to whom he paid me for black and grey cloth, before the ſingle vibration of a ſound from his lady's

lady's tongue, made the leaſt impreſſion on my auditory nerves; though, by the motion of her lips, and the ſerenity of her countenance, I found the honeſt man had a hot diſh of Billingſgate every morning for breakfaſt, over and above his curtain entertainment in the night,

But before I part with maſter Longjaws, I muſt recount one ſtory about him, which happened the day after I fell into his hands; had it not happened ſo ſoon, I could have given no account at all of any of his tranſactions, for my ears, that very afternoon, and all the time I ſtaid with him afterwards, were ſo ſtunn'd with his merry tune of the Babes in the Wood, to which the diſmal fac'd fellow's hammer played

an

an excellent thorough-baſs on the heads of the braſs nails, that, as I told you before, my ears became as uſeleſs to me, as learning to a pupil-monger. But to proceed.

CHAP. XV.

Long jaws continued.

THis genius of an undertaker, into whoſe hands I was fallen, had another trade; for he was an upholſterer. When he buried a cuſtomer, he was always looking out ſharp, to furniſh a houſe for the heir; and, when he had fitted up a houſe, he then began to look ſharp for a funeral; not regarding how ſoon he car-

carried them out of the houſe, to the church yard. Being one of what you call fore-right fellows, in converſation with his cuſtomers, he often jumbled the two trades ſtrangely together. Going, the morning after, I fell into his hands, with a gentleman, to look at a houſe, which he had recommended to him. "Sir," ſays he, "I am ſure you can't diſlike this "houſe; I furniſh'd it for the gen-"tleman that lived here laſt, and bu-"ried both him and all his family "out of it, and I hope I ſhall have "the honour of doing the ſame by "you and your family." The gentleman ſurveying the man from top to toe, as if he was meaſuring which was the biggeſt half of him, the knave or the fool, replied, with a ſmile, "But you'll ſtay till I am

"dead

" dead firſt?" " Certainly," ſays the undertaker, not aware of the archneſs with which the gentleman ſpoke, " I am too good a Chriſtian " to bury folks alive. I never did " it in all my life, but once; it was " poor Mrs. * * * *, and I told her " huſband I thought ſhe was not " dead." " But" he ſaid, " did not " he know her better than me?" ſo " he made me ſcrew her down with, I " believe, fifty ſcrews; he would " not let me touch the coffin with a " ſingle nail, for fear the hammer " ſhould awake her: but, God for- " give me, if I don't believe it was " only a trance ſhe was in; but the " job was a good job, and I had no " buſineſs to interfere between man " and wife, they two muſt have a " reckoning ſome day or other about

" it,

" it, as ſure as God is in Heaven; but " I waſh'd my hands of the matter as " ſoon as I had finiſh'd. But I never " ſhall forget how faſt I ſcrew'd her " down; he ſaid ſhe had been ſo " good a creature he could not " take too much care the ſurgeons " did not get her; ſo ordered the " grave-digger half a crown to fill " up her grave directly, and ram " the ground well down." " For " which reaſon," ſays the gentleman, with the ſame arch look and tone, " if ever you bury my wife, that ſhe " may have fair play, you ſhall nail " her down." " And I can ſecure " her as well that way," replies the unmeaning fellow, " as any under- " taker in town can do with ſix inch " ſcrews." On this the gentleman, once more, took meaſure of him with

with his eye, ſmiled, and departed; and the undertaker whiſtled his way home, to prepare houſhold furniture and coffins for his new cuſtomers.

I lay ten days in the woollen-draper's pocket, during which time I recovered part of of my hearing, in ſpite of madam's tongue, which, though louder than the undertaker's whiſtle and hammer put together, yet having only two hours of it in the morning, I had all the reſt of the day, and all the night to recover in, the curtain-lecture falling all to her huſband's own ſhare, for he left me in his pocket below ſtairs; ſo that I had recovered pretty tolerably, when I was given in change to a gentleman of fortune, who put me into

into his little fob-pocket-book, and away he drove to the Smyrna. Whilſt he was ſipping his coffee, he, as well as myſelf could not help liſtening to a gentleman, who kept talking away to an old Captain that did not return a ſingle word in anſwer; nor had he occaſion, for the gentleman never made a moment's pauſe, but kept going on as if he did not value his words at above four-pence a million, and, by the ſample I heard, that was a very good price for them. An acquaintance of my owner's, who ſat at the ſame table, ſeeing him liſten and ſtare, told him, the gentleman had been talking an hour before he came in, and he anſwered for it, it would hold an hour longer, unleſs, by good luck, he was engaged elſewhere,

where, which, to the great relief of the whole company, he luckily was; ſo that after a further ſtring of about ten minutes long of words, (which were all noun ſubſtantives, becauſe having no connection with each other, they were all obliged to ſtand by themſelves) he decamp'd, and received the ſilent thanks of the whole company for ſhewing them his back.

My owner's acquaintance perceiving an enquiring kind of curioſity in his face, began thus:

"That gentleman, who talks ſo "much, and ſays nothing, has per- "haps better reaſons for making "uſe of unmeaning words than moſt "people imagine." "Reaſons!" ſays

ſays my owner, "Can any man have "a reaſon for waſting his words and "time in ſaying nothing?" "Bleſs "me," ſays my owner's friend, "how little do you know of the "matter? Did not Sir William "Y——, in Sir Robert Walpole's "time, obtain the poſt of ſecretary "of war, for the ſole qualification "of talking two or three hours to-"gether, without either himſelf, or "any of the houſe being able to "pick the leaſt meaning out of a "ſingle ſentence; and yet the lan-"guage was very genteel and very "polite? Is there not now a thou-"ſand men of great parts ſtarving, "whilſt fellows that never were "guilty of ſpeaking a word of ſenſe "in their lives, occupy ſeveral con-"ſiderable poſts; but the gentleman

"juſt now departed has better rea-
"ſons than all this; for at four years
"old he loſt a penſion by making
"a good ſpeech; he is at preſent in
"poſſeſſion of eight hundred a year,
"and his friends agree, nem. con.
"that he is in no danger of loſing
"it by ſuch an accident at preſent:
"but too much care cannot be taken
"in ſuch tickliſh affairs. I am
"therefore apt to think that he is
"ſome how or other always upon
"his guard, elſe, in ſpite of his
"teeth, he muſt once in ſeven years,
"amidſt an ocean of words, have
"blundered out one tolerable ſen-
"tence, which, I am really inform'd,
"has not really happened in that
"period." He then told my owner
the whole ſtory of the gentleman's
being ſo unlucky as to loſe his firſt

penſion at ſo early an age; all which I bottled up, and did not loſe a ſingle ſyllable; therefore, gentle reader, if you have curioſity enough to follow me through all the tranſactions that preceded, and occaſioned this unfortunate ſpeech, that loſt the four-years-old penſion, I'll tell you the ſtory; but you muſt have all the apparatus, for I never will lug in a tale by the head and ſhoulders, as Joe Miller, or ſome ſuch profound writer, tells us, a man did by Sampſon, for having no tale in his budget but one, which happened to be about this ſaid Sampſon, and being willing to club his ſtory with other people, let the ſubject be what it would, he always lugg'd in poor Sampſon, and thereby proved himſelf ſtronger than the

ſtrongeſt man in the world. What do you ſay to it, my gentle reader? I don't ſay readers, becauſe I would not ſuppoſe you would cheat my thrice-worthy friend the great circulating librarian, by reading two or three at a time in one and the ſame book; I therefore repeat, gentle reader, will you attend or not?

I won't detain you long, like a certain lawyer of whom I heard a gentleman tell a ſtory, which I ſhall firſt give you in his own words, as nigh as I can remember.

"I was one day," ſays the gentleman, "in Weſtminſter-hall, "when a certain very eminent law-"yer, on going to ſpeak, was two "or three times interrupted, but at "laſt

"laſt he got his lordſhip's ear, and
"then began his ſpeech: "My
"lord," ſays he, "a—hem—I have
"very little to ſay—hem—hem—I
"promiſe I ſhall not detain the court
"long—hem—hem—hem—but it
"is hard to be interrupted, when
"what I have to ſay will be ſaid in
"ſo few words—hem—hem—hem
"—hem—very little explanation
"will make the court and the
"jury underſtand the caſe as clear-
"ly to the full as I do myſelf, a
"—hem—a—hem—But, my lord,
"your lordſhip muſt own, when a
"man has ſo very little to ſay, it
"is very hard he ſhould be inter-
"rupted. It is not my talent to de-
"tain the court with long ſpeeches,
"or go about and about with need-
"leſs circumlocutions to miſlead the

"court and the jury. I undertake
"to ſpeak in no cauſe that needs
"the aid of ſuch evaſive doings; I
"love to come to the marrow, as I
"may ſay, of the bone at once,
"that the court and the jury may
"taſte the merits of the cauſe at
"firſt ſetting out; this prevents
"their palates from being vitiated
"by falſe ſauces, which will be pre-
"ſented them in long artful ſpeeches,
"wherein ſeveral of my brethren,
"both to the right and left, are
"adepts. I ſay, therefore, my lord,
"is it not hard that a man that has
"ſo little to ſay, ſhould be ſo often
"interrupted. I complain of it,
"my lord, becauſe it happens more
"frequently with me than any other
"practitioner at the bar; I never
"interrupt any gentleman; I never

"cut

" cut any body ſhort, and give an an-
" ſwer to what a gentleman is going
" to ſay: I confine my anſwers to
" what a gentleman has ſaid, not
" what he is about to ſay. I hear all
" with patience and attention, my
" lord; and, in the main, there is
" good policy in acting ſo, if rightly
" conſidered; for give people rope
" enough, and nine out of ten will
" hang themſelves; but if I indulge
" every man in his own, if I keep
" my eyes open either by treading
" on my own toes, or making me-
" morandums of my own private
" concerns, or by any other me-
" thods well known to the court;
" if I do all this, I ſay, my lord,
" ſhould not I have the ſame indul-
" gence as other people? ſauce
" for a gooſe is ſauce for a gander

" all the world over, my lord; that
" proverb is admitted in every
" court in Europe; and three or four
" hundred years peaceable poſſeſſion,
" will ſurely prevent any ejectment
" from being brought againſt that
" good old ſaying, my lord, and I
" claim the benefit of it: I ſhall
" take up very little of your time, I
" aſſure your lordſhip."

" The learned counſellor's luckily
" mentioning ſauce for a gooſe, loſt
" me the remainder of his preface,
" which did not, I am told, laſt a-
" bove an hour longer, and, by that
" time, he had forgot his ſhort
" ſpeech, and never came at the
" marrow of his marrow-bone; but I,
" at the ſound of the word *gooſe*,
" recollected I was to dine that day

" on

" on a fine gooſe, on which I aſk'd
" a manly looking gentleman that
" ſtood cloſe beſide me, in a white
" curl'd wig, and ſeemed, to my
" thinking, to be a maſter-taylor,
" if he could tell me what o'clock
" it was? he inſtantly pulled out a
" gold watch, with a chain of five
" links, and two ſeals dangling at
" the end of each link. I then con-
" cluded he was a toyman, and took
" that genteel method of carrying
" part of his ſhop about him;
" finding by the information of this
" gentleman's ten-ſealed watch, that
" I ſhould, by putting the beſt leg
" foremoſt, be ſcarce able to arrive
" time enough to cut up the gooſe,
" which is an exerciſe I take great
" delight in, eſpecially if it is a fat
" one, I therefore abruptly left the

learned

"learned man of the law convin-
"cing the judge what a ſhort ſpace
"of his time he would encroach
"upon, and haſtened to get a leg
"and a wing, and, perhaps, a ſmall
"ſlice on the breaſt, of what would
"be of more ſervice to me than
"all the appurtenances of the law
"put together, which, I am told,
"in this kingdom amount to the
"ſmall number of fourſcore thou-
"ſand ſouls."

Are not you very glad, gentle reader, that the gentleman got his belly full of gooſe, inſtead of ſtaying for the remainder of the lawyer's ſpeech? I am, I aſſure you; it could have been of no ſervice to any body but my bookſeller; for as I never curtail any body's ſpeeches, you muſt have

have had thirty pages more, either to have read or ſkipp'd over, before we had come to this unfortunate, ſenſible, four-year-old ſpeech of Dickey's, which, at ſo early an age, loſt him a penſion; but now, thanks to the gooſe and the gander, we ſhall come at it in good time.

"You muſt know," ſays my owner's friend, "that this gentleman's "name is Richard, (though there "was no ſaint of that name, yet ſe-"veral good men, to my knowledge, "have been called Richard before "now; king Richard's name was "Richard, but as I can't ſay much "for him, I'll proceed:) now as this "gentleman's name is Richard, they "therefore, when a boy, called him "Dickey. Dickey, though he is grown

"up

" up to be Richard, and hopes to be
" Sir Richard ſome day, when the
" fit takes the king to knight a few
" calves, loves to hear it mention'd
" that he once ſaid a good thing,
" and therefore never fails to tell the
" tale himſelf, though to nobody
" but friends and ſtrangers, but
" Dickey, (Richard, I ſhould have
" ſaid, now he is a man) has the art
" of flattening a ſtory ſo much,
" that people can't tell when he has
" finiſhed; whether he begun with
" the good thing or ended with it, or
" wrapp'd it up in the middle of his
" tale, but take it upon truſt that
" it was ſomewhere in the ſtory, tho'
" they could not clearly eſpy the
" place."

Methinks

Methinks I hear a lion-faced fellow, whoſe two principal fangs are changed into two broken black ſtumps, bawl out, Hold, ſir, if you thus interrupt yourſelf, you'll never get on with your ſtory. My grim looking friend, no matter for that; if I get on with my book 'tis the ſame thing to me; my bookſeller pays me by the ſheet, and the reader can but have his meaſure; a belly full is a belly full, though it be only of that kind of Iriſh wall-fruit call'd potatoes, but rather than diſturb the harmony of your features by making you angry, I'll proceed with all imaginable expedition, though, in ſpite of the fierceſt face you can put on, I'll end this chapter firſt.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

Much ado about what is worſe than nothing.

"DIckey's grandmother was a "fine old lady, and valued "herſelf greatly upon her delicacy. "Unfortunately for her ſhe happen-"ed to be ſtrangely troubled with a "diſtemper, called by the ancient "Saxons, the ghormhaarhuttles, "but, by the learned diſciples of Ga-"len, it is now called the wind-"colic, which was not content with "walking out at the fore-door of "the old lady's clay tenement, with "a guggling kind of a noiſe, called "by the Froglanders, belchabacum-

"ſhau,

" ſhau, but it would frequently iſ-
" ſue out at a poſtern-gate, with a
" noiſe like a crack'd trumpet,
" which would often ſo embarraſs the
" the good old ſoul, that it put her
" upon ways and means of prevent-
" ing the confuſion ſhe was too often
" involved in, on account of theſe
" trumpet-like ſounds. Now this
" four-year-old Dickey being a fine
" hopeful boy, the grandmother de-
" clared him her favourite, and al-
" ways kept him cloſe to her elbow,
" having previouſly agreed to give
" young Dickey a penny a day to
" buy gingerbread with; for which
" it was ſtipulated, that when any
" of theſe crack'd blaſts happened,
" the old lady was to give him a rap
" on the pate, and ſay, ſirrah, how
" dare you f—t ſo? and Dickey

" was

" was to anſwer, I could not help it,
" grandmamma. Now one unfor-
" tunate day, a woeful day, a day
" indeed of woe; when Partridge's
" whole collection of evil ſtars and
" planets had met, and clubb'd their
" heads together, how to ſhed their
" malign influence on the poor
" harmleſs old lady Dickey's grand-
" mamma, a large company of
" polite acquaintance were aſſem-
" bled at her houſe: whether the
" influence of theſe evil ſtars rari-
" fied the air too much in the old
" lady's bowels, or from what other
" cauſe it proceeded, I am not duly
" authorized to ſay; but certain it
" is this Saxon diſtemper, this ghorm-
" hanrhuttles became exceeding trou-
" bleſome, and at the ſame time ſo
" baſhful before company, that it
" refuſed

" refuſed to come out at the fore-
" door, but thought to ſneak away
" backwards in ſilence, which it did
" four or five times, but left ſuch
" a perfume, that all the poor in-
" nocent dogs in the room got
" turned out. The old lady finding
" that ſcheme would hold water no
" longer, boldly ſent her gueſt forth
" at the poſtern-door, with the old
" trumpet-like ſound, and lent Dickey
" a rap, who replied, " I could not
" help it, grandmamma;" but on
" repeating it half a dozen times,
" ſhe was obliged to ſeem more and
" more angry with her favourite
" Dickey, and, to all appearance,
" increaſe the ſmartneſs of her raps.
" Five times did this paragon of a
" boy, this four-year-old Dickey,
" bear the raps patiently, and an-

" ſwer very properly; but the ſixth
" time the old lady's knuckles
" chanc'd to hit ſo hard, that they
" drove all patience out of Dickey's
" head, and before ſhe could think
" what he was about, to her ever-
" laſting confuſion he had utter'd
" the following ſentence: " If you
" hit ſo hard, grandmamma, I will
" not father your f—s any longer."
" Well might Dickey value himſelf
" upon this ſpeech, for neither De-
" moſthenes or Cicero I am certain,
" in ten of the beſt orations they
" ever ſpoke in their lives, could
" excite ſuch different ſenſations in
" an audience, as this ſingle ſentence
" of Dickey's did: the delicate old
" lady, the grandmamma, turned
" pale, and was ready to ſink thro'
" the ſattin-cuſhion that had ſo often
" vibrated

" vibrated with thoſe trumpet-like
" tones; diſtreſs appeared in the
" face of the old lady's daughter,
" Dickey's mamma; miſs Squeam-
" iſh, the old maid, who, although
" ſhe was near fifty, never had any
" more than one child, and two miſ-
" carriages, ſcrew'd up her face, and
" and look'd as if ſhe had drank ſalt-
" water, and was going to throw it up
" again; lady Lazarus——, whoſe
" ſore legs ſhe fancied were a pro-
" found ſecret, look'd ſneeringly with
" a haughty diſdain on a creature ſub-
" ject to ſuch a filthy diſorder; Mrs.
" Frowſey, whoſe ſkin had the na-
" tural perfume of tanner's-bark,
" kept opening and ſhutting her
" gold-ſnuff box, with ſuch an air
" of delicacy, you would ſwear ſhe
" fed on nothing but ambroſia, and

" waſh'd her hands in nectar inſtead
" of perfumed pearl-powder, which,
" though laid on very thick, could
" not prevent the effluvia of her ſkin
" from ſaluting your noſe: two or
" three ladies, by checking a laugh
" which had got half way out, put
" their faces into the attitude of a
" boy, whoſe companion having
" given him a ſmart ſtroke with a
" ſwitch, ſtands conſidering whether
" to laugh or cry. Lady Nicenoſe,
" who has been known to ſpend an
" hour at a time in the ſtable with
" her huſband's coachman, (who is
" the dirtieſt dog in the creation,
" and keeps both his ſtable and
" horſes in as dirty a pickle as him-
" ſelf,) fainted at the thoughts of
" ſitting in a room where ſuch inde-
" licate fumes had mix'd with the

" pure

" pure air; whilſt the worthy, open-
" hearted lady Meanwell laugh'd her
" ſides almoſt ſore, and then, very
" ſenſibly obſerv'd, that although no-
" body was a greater friend to de-
" cency than herſelf, yet ſhe de-
" ſpiſed an over-affected nicety; for
" experience, ſhe was certain, would
" convince every one, whoſe life
" Providence ſhould be pleaſed to
" prolong, that old age was ſubject
" to infirmities which youth had no
" idea of, and nobody need be a-
" ſhamed of it, but thoſe who were
" aſhamed of being old: in ſhort,
" the good ſenſe of that lady,
" brought all the company to them-
" ſelves again, (except the coach-
" man's lady, by which I concluded,
" nothing but the ſmell of the ſta-
" ble would go down with her,) and

"Dickey was pronounced a very
"fine boy. But from that day
"he loſt his penſion; whether it
"was the effect of a ſudden ana-
"thema that might ſecretly eſcape
"from the old lady in the firſt
"onſet of her confuſion, or ſome of
"the evil ſtars ſhed their bane-
"ful influence on Dickey's head,
"I know not, but certain it is, he
"never ſaid a good thing ſince, nor
"ever will, if he lives to the age of
"old Parr."

Methinks I now hear another of my wiſe-phizz'd readers ſay, What a long Canterbury-tale has this fellow built upon a f—! Your obſervation, my worthy friend, is a very juſt one; but as the foundation of my tale is ſtronger than you are aware of, I can't do leſs than preſent

ſent it you to build a better tale upon; if you can't do it, 'tis your fault, not mine.

CHAP. XVII.

No good ever attends interruptions.

NEVER did I paſs an afternoon ſo pleaſantly in my life; a dialogue betwixt lord George and lady Mary, was maintained with ſuch true ſenſe, ſpirit and delicacy, and in ſo elegant a ſtile, that I am very angry with myſelf for not being able to give my reader a faint idea of it. The manners of high-life, when guided by ſenſe and innate goodneſs of heart are truly ami-

able, and the charming pair, (between whom this afternoon's conference was a courtſhip on my lord's ſide, and a half aſſent on the lady's,) vy'd with each other in delicacy of ſentiment and of expreſſion.

Lady Mary's grandmamma was preſent all the time, and a fine old lady ſhe is of her age as any in the four quality-pariſhes of St. James's, St. Martin's, St. George's, or Mary-le-bone; yet although this match was as good as made up, you'll be ſurprized to think how ſlight an accident had like to have broke it off: but I'll tell you the ſtory.

I wiſh you would tell us firſt, ſays a ſea-captain, with a great cockade in his hat, how the devil you

you came into company with my lord George, and lady Mary, and her grandmother? you talk of a fellow bringing in Sampſon by the head and ſhoulders, but if you have not thruſt yourſelf into lord George's and lady Mary's company by the head and ſhoulders, I'll be d——d.

Noble captain, ſays I, don't be in ſuch a paſſion; you may be d—d, for aught I know, whether I got in by the head and ſhoulders, or heels foremoſt; but there I did get; and becauſe you have not aſk'd me civilly, I won't tell you which way; therefore, if you don't chuſe to hear the ſtory, you are welcome to ſheer off.

What between ſea-calves and land-lubbers, never was poor devil ſo

interrupted in his buſineſs as I am; this water-animal has driven all ideas ſo totally out of my head, that I ſhall never be able to put the ſtory again into that pretty, nice roundeau that I had once ſhap'd it. The ſpirit of it is gone, and if I had not promiſed it, my readers ſhould not have been troubled with it; but if I muſt come to diſgrace, I rather chuſe to do it by keeping my word than breaking it.

On Thurſday afternoon; of all days in the year, I think it was on a Thurſday; no, I am wrong;—it was Friday;—I am wrong again; it could not be Friday, becauſe I am ſure it was not ſo nigh the end of the week, and yet it was not Wedneſday.—You muſt excuſe me, kind

kind reader, I am not recovered enough from the trepidation into which that captain with his greaſy uniform put me, to tell this ſtory as it ought to be told: ſpare me a little, and I ſhall recover by degrees, but if I cloſe the chapter firſt, you will have a better chance of knowing what I am about, becauſe I can take a ſhort walk up and down my garret, to bring my ſenſes about me before I begin again.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

The author escapes a scowering.

YOU must know, reader, that this same lord George is as complete a gentleman as ever entered a drawing-room; and lady Mary not a jot inferior in every qualification desireable in the fair sex; therefore to repeat a conversation, and do justice to this charming couple, requires a cool moment or two, for it ought not to be rabbled over like Mr. * * * *'s tales of cocks and bulls, which never reach the seat of the memory, but glance plump from the drum of the ear through the

the noſtrils, and mix with the open air again in an inſtant: for all which cauſes and conſiderations I muſt, my thrice worthy reader, (I wiſh I could add, and admirer) beg you'll excuſe me entering upon that taſk for the preſent, and I'll give you another ſtory that ſhall begin with a lord. But as he ſaid nothing, I ſhall have no converſation to repeat, but only plain facts to relate, which I can ſtill do, in ſpite of that captain's bluff face and great cockade: but let me firſt premiſe, that I am not ſo great a coward as to be frightened by his fierce looks and great cockade alone; no, no; there was a farther conſideration, I was afraid he had a preſs-warrant in his pocket; and all preſs-warrants impower people to take men in either ragged or thread-bare

coats

coats with impunity, becauſe they are ſure the poor wretches have no friends to call them to account.

I was paid into the hands of a noble lord, who rammed me, and ſeveral more of my brethren, into his waiſtcoat-pocket in ſuch a crumpled condition, that I expected we were, whenever the fit took him, to be made uſe of at the temple of the goddeſs Cloacina; but the man had more wit in his anger (as country-folks ſay); he carried us to Boodle's, where he loſt me at the firſt bett, and threw me a-croſs the table to a ſober, careful-looking gentleman, (or lord, or ſomething or other, for he muſt be ſomebody, or he would hardly have been there) who untwiſted me with great care, and put

me

me into his pocket-book, with as much form as if he had been an honeſt money-lending city uſurer. I thought myſelf exceeding lucky, for had my lord Harebrains offered to untwiſt me, I ſhould have been torn half in two, at leaſt, and then have been glad to wear a ſtrengthening-plaſter on my back all my life after. In this pious-fac'd gentleman's pocket-book I lay very ſecure, but in great fear of ſoon being taken out again, and kick'd about from one wild ſhaver to another, by which means I ſhould have ſtood a chance, in ſome angry fit or other, to get a hole made in my body with their nails, or a piece bit out of my ſides; but my new maſter luckily proved a gatherer, not a ſquanderer. Every five minutes I had a freſh companion coming

coming to take a nap in the pocket-book. At laſt, juſt at the cloſe of the evening, my maſter, who I ſhall call Mynheer Van Steadyphiz, opened his pocket-book, and began to examine his notes one by one, till he came to me, and brought me as carefully out as he had put me in; ſure, thinks I, he has not loſt a bett! however, as it is the firſt to-night, he may well afford it; but I ſoon found he was only giving a young ſpark change for a note of a hundred, having won eighty of him; I was clapp'd into a little ſob-pocket-book of the young gentleman's, with nothing but a ſolitary fifty to bear me company. I never paſſed an evening ſo pleaſantly in my life; he proved to be one of your ſenſible, obſervation making notes, which I

did

did not wonder at, when he told me his father was an East-India Director. All the time our new master lay snoring, with as much content as if he had won five thousand, instead of losing one, we had a most agreeable chit-chat, and he told me several tales; which, if I have time, the world shall be the better for, but not till I have unladed my own cargo. Little did I think that agreeable night would be attended with such a tragical scene as it was in the morning, when I lost, for ever lost, my sensible friend, without hopes of ever seeing him again. I am sure it has made such an impression on my spirits, that I cannot help wishing all your saucy common low-lived huffies were sent to Bridewell, and their keepers to Bedlam.

Our young maſter no ſooner got dreſs'd, than, to comfort himſelf after his loſs, away he went to breakfaſt with his madam, a young lady, whoſe mother had been ſo great a friend to the butchers of Clare-Market, that ſhe had kindly taken uncommon pains to convey large quantities of beef, mutton, veal, pork, &c. &c. from their ſhops to the pot and ſpit: whether, like Mr. Aſhley, ſhe did it *pro bono publico*, or like Mr. W—s, *pro patria*, or like * * * *, *pro rege*, I won't pretend to determine; all I can aver with certainty is, that immenſe quantities ſhe had conveyed in her time from the market to the porrage-pot, and had begun to initiate her daughter into the ſame trade, or myſtery; but the young lady, at the age of

thir-

thirteen, thought fit to give the preference to a more public occupation; though, I believe, the firſt four years of her labours, inſtead of proving *pro bono publico*, proved *pro bono chirurgiano*. One of that profeſſion, to whom ſhe had ſent a number of cuſtomers to get the bridges of their noſes rectified, had the gratitude to ſet her on her legs again, when ſhe was either at, or very near the laſt ſtage. Some folks are ſo ill-natur'd as to think there was not ſo much of gratitude in the act, as hopes of a freſh harveſt from her induſtry, when her conſtitution was ſtrong enough to communicate that fatal diſeaſe again to her cuſtomers, without impairing her external charms: but if that was really the caſe, the noſe-mender was bit, for juſt at the

time ſhe was prepared and fitted for another cruiſe, our young hero took a fancy to her, hired her a houſe, and gave her fine cloaths, which enabled her (though ſhe ſtill followed her public buſineſs) to take her choice of culls ſo well, as to eſcape the dreadful diſtemper ſhe had ſuffered ſo much from in the four firſt years of her beginning buſineſs.

My poſſeſſor—on his firſt coming into her breakfaſt-room, began to toy with her, but ſhe put him off, and directly ſat down to breakfaſt. I knew ſo much of thoſe ſort of cattle as to be ſenſible there muſt be ſomething in the wind, when they refuſe to perform the myſteries of their calling. I was not wrong in

my

my conjecture, for whilſt the ſecond diſh of tea was pouring out, "My dear," ſays ſhe, "I want "money." Ho! ho! thinks I, the cat is out of the bag now; ten to one but before night I go again into Taviſtock-ſtreet, and, perhaps, may ſee the black ſtumps of my old acquaintance, Mrs. Doubleſtitch again; but I had reaſon to be well-pleaſed that I never gueſſed wider of the mark in my life, for inſtead of me he lugg'd out my brother fifty, and put him into her hands. Madam, with an air of vulgarity which never entirely quits perſons of her rank and education, cries, "Fifty! and "be d——d! why it will hardly "ſerve for a breakfaſt." Then, to make her words good, ſhe clapped my unfortunate comrade between

two ſlices of bread and butter, and ſwallowed him down with as much agility as ſhe had formerly taken her pills and boluſes. Never was aſtoniſhment equal to mine, all the blood in my veins grew chill with horror; and, had any body ſeen me, I imagine I cut much the ſame figure that Ulyſſes did in the cave of Polypheme, when he ſaw his companions devoured by that one-ey'd monſter. To ſay truth, the aſtoniſhment of my owner was little inferior to mine: like a cat watching a mouſe, he kept ſtaring at her for at leaſt two minutes, without ſuffering his eye-lids to make one ſingle wink. At laſt, in the mild, eaſy, genteel tone, which ſhe had learned in the market, ſhe began thus: "Blaſt your peepers, you ſon

of

"of a w——e; how dare you uſe "me ſo?" This pretty, eloquent, little, ſhort ſpeech brought him out of his reverie; but, ſomehow or other, inſpired him with an inclination to imitate the ſame ſtile. Miſs was partly out of luck with her airs this time; for he being rather ſore with his laſt night's loſs, and fifty going ſo ſuddenly without either rhyme or reaſon, brought all his choler to his aſſiſtance; he firſt flung his own diſh of ſcalding-hot tea in her face, by way of waſhing his bank-note down, and then, in imitation of her ſtile I ſuppoſe, replied, "Blaſt your eyes, you brim-"ſtone-whore, this is the laſt penny "you ſhall ever have of mine." On which, taking his hat, he walked directly out of the houſe, before ma-

dam had time to fall into a fit, which I obſerved ſhe was putting her face in tune to do, as ſoon as ſhe felt the warmth of the tea. I was congratulating my poſſeſſor on the conqueſt he had gained, and, at the ſame time, wiſhing the improvident wretch might never touch another penny, or even recover ſixpence of it from the Bank, till poverty had ſo waſted all the fleſh from her rump, that every director, if he choſe to peep, might plainly read the number on her hucklebone.

Whilſt I was buſy in theſe cogitations, her hopeful maid came running after us, bawling, "Sir, Sir! "dear Sir, my miſtreſs is dead." "Dead!" ſays my poſſeſſor, (who, from this time I call 'ſquire Shallow-crown,)

crown,) "why I left her alive but "juſt now." "Very true, Sir," ſays the girl, "but the inſtant you ſtep- "ped out of the door, ſhe fell upon "the floor as flat as a flounder, and "is, by this time, I'll anſwer for it, "as ſtiff as a poker; ſhe juſt had "had time to ſay, O Betty, he's "gone, and my heart is broken." At this poor Shallowcrown began to melt like a tallow-candle, when there is a thief in it. "Betty" ſays he, "do you think there is no hopes "of her recovery?" "Very little, "I fear, Sir; if your rubbing her "temples don't do it, there is ſmall "chance indeed; but pray don't let "the poor creature be loſt, becauſe "a poor woman can't help being "fooliſh ſometimes." "She ſhan't, "if I can prevent it," ſays Shallow-

crown;

crown; ſo away he turns back. All this time I ſaw her peeping through a corner of her dining-room window, to ſee how Betty ſucceeded, that ſhe might be dead or alive at her return, juſt as the exigency of affairs required. I was therefore certain we ſhould find her ſtretch'd on the floor as dead as a herring. O man! man! thinks I, what ſort of a ſtrange animal art thou? An Engliſh maſtiff that ſhuts both his eyes and runs plump into the gripe of a bear, is a prince of a dog for foreſight, when compared to a muddy-brain'd two-legg'd puppy.

When we arrived at the habitation of this wretch, we found her juſt as I expected, ſtretched on the carpet with her petticoats ſo neatly diſ-

diſpoſed, that they ſhew'd one of her legs to great advantage; and being a very fine limb'd brim, ſhe gueſs'd that would have no bad effect: the maid inſtantly fell to roaring and bawling, and calling for cold water and hartſhorn, whilſt my friend Timothy Shallowcrown ſat down on the carpet, and taking her head on his lap, fell to chafing her temples; but he chaf'd, and Betty flung water in her face for five minutes all in vain; ſhe, like Sidrophel, when he bit both Hudibras and Ralpho,

Shut both her eyes, and held her breath,
And to the life out-acted death.

How nature could, in one creature, make ſuch a ſtrange mixture of deep cunning and abſurdity, I ſhould be

be at a loſs to account, did I not ſee inſtances of it every day both in man and woman: inſtances ſo contradictory, that what my eyes really behold, I can ſcarce reconcile myſelf believe.—When madam had kick'd and ſprawl'd about, with as much art as if ſhe had been ſeven years apprentice to the trade, ſhe at laſt came to life again; (I fancy all my readers gueſs ſhe intended it from the firſt,) when ſtaring wildly at maſter Shallowcrown, juſt as you have ſeen Juliet do at her beloved Romeo, ſhe ſuddenly ſeiz'd him round the neck, and, in the tragical tone exclaim'd, "And art thou returned? "Never, O never will we part again." "No; no more we will, Polly," ſays Shallowcrown; this he ſpoke ſo like Jubilee Dickey, that, in ſpite

of

of all my anger, it ſet me a laughing heartily. However, to make ſhort of my long ſtory, which begins to tire myſelf as well as my readers, before any other buſineſs could be entered upon, ſhe made him give her a draught on his banker for two hundred pounds; and, on ſearching his pocket-book, condeſcended to take poor me to buy ribbands with. Adieu, ſays I to my quondam maſter, as he went out at the door, thou art a gudgeon of the firſt claſs; rather than not be taken, I find thou wilt ſwallow the naked hook; and if this moſt abandon'd, unthinking wretch doth not bring thee to a morſel of bread, I'll give thee leave to ſay when I am dead, that Solomon, the wiſeſt man in the world, and myſelf the moſt learned

of

of bank-notes, were only a brace of buzzards.

I did not remain long with this Mrs. Mac Devil, which pleaſed me not a little; for beſides being in danger of walking down her wide throat, (where I ſhould have cut a ſmall figure, her paſſage having admitted a fifty-pounder before,) I did not like her company, as I was ſure not one of her actions would be worth remembering, unleſs the curſe of poverty had fallen upon her, which could not be, ſo long as I ſtaid with her; I was therefore glad to go, and will tell you how I went, and why, and wherefore.

After the maid and her brimſhip had diverted themſelves with the moſt vulgar

vulgar cutting jokes and ſneers upon this maſter Toby Shallowcrown, which I own he richly deſerv'd, altho' from her it was the blackeſt ingratitude, Mrs. Abigail ſuddenly recollected that ſhe had ſtruck the finiſhing-ſtroke in fetching him back, and therefore deſerved a new gown, at leaſt, for her trouble; ſo told her miſtreſs ſhe could not give her leſs than five guineas to buy a ſilk gown with: for my part I thought the wench mighty reaſonable in her demands; ſhe diſplayed great generalſhip in perſuading him to return; and uncommon preſence of mind all the time her miſtreſs's hum-cull fit laſted. But here behold another inſtance of the moſt abſurd inconſiſtency; this wretch, who could ſo wantonly deſtroy ſuch a ſum as fifty pounds

pounds for nothing but a certainty of doing njury to the man from whom ſhe received her daily bread, all on a ſudden now becomes covetous, becauſe called upon to gratify a perſon that really deſerved ten times more than ſhe aſk'd; for had maſter Toby Shallowcrown gotten fairly away in his paſſion, the odds would have been greatly againſt Miſs Brim, whether ſhe would ever have ſeen him again; notwithſtanding which, ſhe flatly refus'd the five guineas, and the mild Mrs. Abigail as ſtoutly inſiſted upon it: this brought on a ſcene of altercation, attended with a whole cart-load of accuſations and recriminations, uttered in ſuch an amazing, uncommon ſtile, that all the converſation-pieces of St. Giles's, Chick-Lane, Hockley-

Hockley in the Hole, Billingſgate, nay, even Newgate itſelf, would appear the eſſence of polite converſation, compared to this Tartarian dialogue. At laſt the maid, with a volley of imprecations, ſuch as would have frightened the devil himſelf away, had he been liſtening, ſwore that ſhe would inſtantly find out Shallowcrown, and blow her miſtreſs to hell; I aſk pardon for uſing the mild Mrs. Abigail's own words, but I could not help thinking them very expreſſive.

The Abigail's laſt ſentence utter'd with a determin'd air, inſtantly brought Miſs Brim to her ſenſes: ſhe found ſhe had met with her match, ſo was forc'd to come down ten guineas inſtead of five, on

which I was directly ſent to the tea-ſhop for a pound of tea and change.

Thus was I delivered out of the hands of a fiend, with the moſt heavenly perſon joined to the moſt helliſh tongue and rotten heart of any human being that, I believe, ever was, or ever will be created.

Would you reflect, O ye ſimple youths, what wretches you foſter in your breaſts, what vipers you warm in your boſoms; inſtead of ſuffering your deluded ſenſes to be drawn away by painted ſepulchres, filled with rottenneſs, you would view them with horror and deteſtation, and, in ſpite of all the efforts of ungovernable luſt, ſicken at the thoughts of embracing ſuch magazines

gazines of corruption. But I am afraid I am preaching to the wind, or, at leaſt, ſhall have no better ſucceſs than an honeſt ale-drinking parſon, not above fifteen miles from town, who, every Sunday morning, mounts his pulpit with a deſign to awake his pariſhioners to a due ſenſe of their ſins, inſtead of which, as ſure as he mounts, he preaches them all faſt aſleep.

CHAP. XIX.

Contains nothing but a Jew, a leg of pork, and a peaſe-pudding.

THE laſt chapter left me in the hands of the tea-man, but this chapter won't find me there for all that, becauſe I was inſtantly paid

to a tea-broker, who carried me directly into the city, and delivered me into the hands of the uglieſt dog of a Jew that the ſun ever ſhone upon. With this Iſraelite I went home to dinner, pleaſed with an opportunity of ſeeing how theſe quondam people of God, far'd now-a-days. I expected, by the appearance of this Achan—the ſon of Zerah*—that I ſhould ſee him ſit down to a head of garlick, with a piece of bread and ſalt, and, perhaps, a ſallad; for all the cloaths on

* The 22d chapter of Joſhua, verſe 20. Did not Achan the ſon of Zerah commit a treſpaſs in the accurſed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Iſrael.

N. B. Our author puts down this note to ſhew, that he ſeldom gives folks names without a meaning.

his back were not worth above ninepence, on a moderate calculation; but how was I ſurpriſed to ſee a fine leg of pork and a peaſe pudding come ſmoaking upon table; the Hebrew, without a ſingle ejaculation, or ſo much as lifting up his eyes, fell at the pork with ſuch eagerneſs, that I expected he would not ſo much as leave the ſhank unſwallowed; but I was miſtaken, for I believe four pounds was the moſt he did eat, (the leg weighed eight) but the pudding paid very ſeverely for his mercy to the pork; for although he left very near half the leg of the forbidden beaſt, yet not a tenth part of the pudding eſcaped the rage of his grinders; the moment the act of maſtication ceaſed, he ſeized on a two-handled cup, much ſuch a one

as Homer deſcribes old Neſtor's, and clapping it with both hands to his greaſy thick lips, took a moſt unchriſtian-like ſwig, but what the liquor was I had no time to enquire, for the inſtant he had finiſhed, he wiped his mouth with the back of his hand, where he let both the wet and greaſe remain to dry, and ran away directly to carry me to a poor needy ſhopkeeper, who not only paid him a guinea for a month's loan of me, but was at the charge of ſending cloth of twice the value to the Iſraelite's warehouſe to lay as ſecurity.

The ſhopkeeper did not keep me a moment, but ran like bewitched to take up a bill that lay at a banker's.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

By which the reader may judge how many feet a Spaniard takes at a ſtride.

BY the banker I was paid next morning to a tradeſman, who kept grumbling at my Lord Four-eyes, for ordering his goods out of his ſhop without ever intending to pay for them, and pondering to himſelf what name was bad enough for him: honeſt man, thinks I, call him a thief at once.

For my part I never had any great notion of noble blood running in any man's veins: where the pox muſt he get it; can the king, by making a man

man a peer, transfuſe noble blood into the grandſon of a low uſurer? ridiculous!

This puts me in mind of a dialogue I heard my father read between a poor Spaniſh nobleman and a rich gentleman, who would have married his daughter, and kept both her and her father and mother in affluence; but tho' reduc'd to a cruſt, and that cruſt not to be come at above three days a-week, yet the noble Don kept up his part.

"It was one of my anceſtors," ſays this Don Furioſo del Meagrephizo, (meaſuring at the ſame time the whole length of a thirty foot room at ſix ſtrides, and continuing to do it backward and forward all the time

time he was ſpeaking,) "that baniſh-
"ed the ſun from his preſence for
"ever, for daring to ſhine on that
"infamous day, when a petty gen-
"tleman of Andaluſia was made a
"grandee of Spain; and ſhall I, the
"deſcendant in a direct line from
"ſuch a heroe as that, diſgrace ſo
"illuſtrious a race by matching my
"daughter below her dignity? for-
"bid it all the ſhades of my noble
"anceſtors!"

"The noble ſhades of your an-
"ceſtors, (ſays the gentleman,) may
"with great propriety forbid it, be-
"cauſe they can live upon air: but
"can they bid, as well as forbid?"

"Bid what?" ſays the Don.

"Why, bid you," replies the gen-
tleman, "to a good dinner and
"ſupper; which I can, and will do

"every

"every day; and, by producing a "fat ſurloin of beef, or a well-fed "turkey, do more than all your great "anceſtors put together can. But "pray how far back do you go for "your anceſtors?"

Don. "To the great Romulus the "founder of Rome."

Gent. "And pray who was that "Romulus?"

Don. "I told you, the founder of "Rome."

Gent. "True, you did; but was "he nothing elſe?"

Don. "Yes; he was the greateſt "man in the then known world."

Gent. "The greateſt rogue you "mean; and could the people he "fled from have catched him, they "would have branded him on the "back, and chained him to an oar:

"but

"but he had the foreſight to join
"with a gang of thieves and vaga-
"bonds, the ſcum of all the nations
"round them; numbers made them
"ſtrong enough to defend them-
"ſelves at firſt, and deſpair preſent-
"ly rendered them ſo formidable,
"that they called themſelves heroes;
"and from this neſt of murderers,
"pirates, rogues, and pickpockets,
"the dregs of nations, and the
"outcaſts of the world, the great
"families of the Italian Signores,
"the Spaniſh Dons, the German
"princes; the French monſeigneurs,
"and the Engliſh dukes and earls
"are all deſcended: for ſhame! for
"ſhame! talk to fools and idiots
"of noble ideas by inheritance:
"where was the nobility of the firſt
"man? Mr. Adam was a noble gar-
"dener, and earned his living by the

"ſweat

"ſweat of his brow. Did he dig "the noble blood he tranſmitted to "part of his poſterity out of the "earth, or where elſe could he firſt "find it, think you?"

Whether the Don liſten'd to the voice of reaſon, joined with the cravings of an empty ſtomach, or that pride prevailed, and kept him ſtrutting with empty pockets up and down his empty room, I cannot inform you, becauſe the ſheet of paper in which my father had brought a quarter of a pound of butter from the chandler's ſhop, ended where I do; and as I ſcorn to coin either a beginning or ending for my own true tales, you may be ſure I will not do it for any body elſe.

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END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.